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CSCE-Russian Statement on Karabakh Truce Detailed

NC1705110794 Yerevan SNARK in English 1205 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Yerevan, 16 MAY (SNARK)—CSCE Minsk group Chairman Ian Eliasson and the Russian president's special envoy Vladimir Kazimirov have issued today a joint statement, following their mission to Transcacasus. In it they particularly expressed their satisfaction by the fact that truce as a whole is observed in the Karabakh conflict zone.

"The truce is a result of agreement reached on May 12 this year between the defense ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan, as well as defense forces commander of Nagorno-Karabakh, under intermediary activity of CSCE and Russia", is said in the document.

It is also noted in the statement that presently a draft of agreement is being discussed, the purpose of which is "to back up the truce by disposition of international observers".

Russia Suspected of Foiling Karabakh Peace Efforts

MK1705121694 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Armen Khanbabyan report in the "Armenia" column: "Yerevan Does Not Believe in the Purity of Moscow's Intentions" under general headline: "The Military Leaders of Baku, Yerevan, and Stepanakert Have Set in Motion Russia's Plan for a Karabakh Settlement"]

[Text] The past weekend has been extremely tense for Armenian leaders and intermediaries involved in the peacemaking activities around the Karabakh conflict. Ian Eliasson, head of the Minsk CSCE group; Vladimir Kazimirov, ambassador at large of the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs; James Collins, assistant to the U.S. Secretary of State and the State Department's chief coordinator on the CIS countries, have shuttled actively between Baku and Yerevan in an effort both to coordinate the sides' positions and to bring closer the approaches of the intermediaries themselves. Bad weather in the region has prevented their flying in to Stepanakert.

According to Vladimir Kazimirov, much has been achieved, and never before has peace been so close at hand as now, and today everything depends on the conduct of the opposing sides: "It is to dispel the widespread opinion that the sides in the conflict are incapable of achieving a cease-fire or observing it on their own." The Russian diplomat stated that Moscow remains committed to the idea of a peacemaking action with the forces of an international military contingent. In his opinion, subdivisions of neutral European countries—Austria, Sweden and Finland—could take part in the operation. On the other hand, no one has yet expressed such readiness. Nonetheless Vladimir Kazimirov believes that Russia will not agree single-handedly to disengage the Karabakh and Azerbaijan forces.

For his part Armenian presidential press secretary Levon Zurabyan stated that some hopes are being pinned on the quadripartite meeting of defense ministers in Moscow which, he expects, will make it possible to transform the lull into a stable peace. At the same time Mr. Zurabyan denied reports by some media that the Moscow meeting between Levon Ter-Petrosyan and Heydar Aliyev is already a foregone conclusion. "There is no specific decision on this count," the press secretary stressed. This was also confirmed by Vladimir Kazimirov, who added however that it is essential to work out a substantive, legally binding agreement on terminating the conflict and overcoming its consequences. This agreement could be signed by leaders of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Nagorno-Karabakh, and Russia as an intermediary. Possibly, Kazimirov added, this document will be also joined by Swedish diplomats who are now presiding over the CSCE Minsk group.

Meanwhile fears are mounting in Armenia that the transition from war to peace will not only be very complicated but could also entail unwelcome implications. In particular Suren Zolyan, a deputy in the Armenian Supreme Soviet, said that "the peacekeeping troops could very easily turn into occupiers" and therefore it is vitally urgent to consider the limits of powers of both observer and disengagement units in areas of their disposition. Unless all the intermediaries' powers are defined clearly today, tomorrow any provocation will serve as cause to introduce these units into the territory of Nagorno-Karabakh proper, which could lead to a repetition of the 1920 situation. At that time the Russian army also entered Karabakh as a neutral force to reconcile the warring sides but soon transferred that region under Azerbaijan's control. In this connection there are doubts that Moscow will agree with the CSCE proposal whereby international observers are to monitor not so much the actions by sides to the conflict as the activity and movement of the peacekeeping forces. This leads to the conclusion that Russia will try to thwart the CSCE efforts and will start forming a CIS troop contingent (also "international" in name), which will naturally require some time and at best delay a settlement.

Moscow Talks on Nagorno-Karabakh Fail

LD1705134994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1336 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Mikhail Shevtsov and Andrey Palaria]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—The Russia-brokered talks on Nagorno-Karabakh which began in Moscow on Monday between the defence ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Nagorno-Karabakh failed on Tuesday and the defence chief of Azerbaijan flew to Baku for consultations with the president.

The sides failed to sign the final protocol on the ceasefire and the disengagement of troops, Russian Deputy Defence Minister Georgiy Kondratyev told TASS. The major provisions of the document were agreed upon thanks to mediation by Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Armenian Ambassador in Russia Feliks Mamikonyan told TASS that Azerbaijan insisted that its territories be freed simultaneously with the beginning of troops disengagement. He added that it was that question which demanded additional consultations with Baku.

However, Kondratyev told TASS that Mamadrafi Mammadov, as it turned out, was not authorised to sign the final document and requested additional time for consultations with the president of Azerbaijan.

The embassy of Azerbaijan in Moscow confirmed that the republican defence minister had left for Baku, but refused to comment on the disagreements at the talks.

Kondratyev expressed hope that the protocol would be signed in the near future.

According to the Armenian ambassador, representatives of Nagorno-Karabakh, Armenia and Russia had signed the ceasefire and disengagement protocol.

Mediator Outlines Karabakh Settlement Plan

PM1805084994 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Anatoliy Shapovalov report: "Peace Plan for Nagorno-Karabakh. Vladimir Kazimirov Proposes Phased Settlement of Conflict"]

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, which was never resolved under the Union, is our most difficult legacy. The six years of confrontation have accounted for around 30,000 lives. Hundreds of thousands of people have been turned into refugees.

Time has also been lost today. Literally the entire world—through the efforts of representatives from Russia, the CIS Interparliamentary Assembly, the CSCE Minsk Group, and the United Nations—is trying to resolve the conflict. But there has been little success. It is hard to change anyone's mind—there is too much distrust, toughness, and hatred in the confrontation zone.

What is happening needs to be recognized in the natural, usual way, this ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA correspondent was told by Vladimir Kazimirov, official representative of the Russian Federation president and leader of the Russian mediation mission, in the realization that recognizing reality and turning toward peace is an exceptionally difficult process that is made harder—apart from anything else—by propaganda.

Russia's actions should be particularly balanced and wise—and this is what it is striving for, campaigning above all to organize good and effective relations (this is its sole aim) with both Azerbaijan and Armenia.

There is constant advice and counsel on offer, but only Russia has a conceptual approach, Boris Yeltsin's representative believes. The essence of the Russian plan is to give preference to a phased settlement of the conflict without undermining the elaboration of package measures. We are proposing three phases, V. Kazimirov said, which could either be superimposed on each other or come one after the other.

Phase one includes a cease-fire, the cessation of hostilities, and a reliable consolidation of this state of affairs. Like any first step, this phase is the most difficult. Appeals to political, legal, moral, or any other criteria will be useless. All our hopes will be pinned on military-technical measures envisaging the suspension of hostilities, the observance of the cease-fire, and the disengagement of the forces. Implementing this will take just six days.

Phase two envisages the liberation of all captured territories (apart from Shusha and Lachin), the rapid exchange of prisoners and hostages, the restoration of communications, and the return of refugees to their homes. This phase will be of immense importance, in both humanitarian and psychological terms. All this will take 34 days.

Phase three will be the negotiating phase, during which the question of Nagorno-Karabakh's status will be examined.

Are the sides ready for the measures proposed by V. Kazimirov? The meeting in Bishkek and the talks with Armenian and Azerbaijani parliamentarians have shown that a number of politicians are hesitating when they take a closer look at implementing the move toward peace. And it is not hard to understand that. After all, peace poses a threat to the careers of certain political leaders. Consequently, it is of little concern to them if the continuation of hostilities costs thousands of lives. Only a full appreciation of this fact can make politicians ignore career considerations. Will they have enough sense and willpower to do so?

Grachev Talks Tough on Caucasus Peacekeeping

PM1805082594 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

[Viktor Litovkin report: "Russian Army Once Again Arrives in Caucasus. First in Abkhazia, Then in Karabakh and Azerbaijan"]

[Text] Over the next few days around 5,000 Russian soldiers and officers from Leningrad Military District's 45th Motorized Rifle Division, the Volga District's 27th Motorized Rifle Division, and units stationed in the Moscow area will fly out to the Transcaucasus on a peacemaking mission in order to take up combat positions along the contact line between the Georgian and

Abkhazian troops and the Nagorno-Karabakh and Azerbaijani troops. Your IZVESTIYA correspondent learned of this from a well informed Russian Defense Ministry source.

Bearing in mind the fact that there are already around 25,000 troops at Russia's military bases in Georgia and Armenia and on Abkhazian territory, the total grouping will be fairly impressive although it will not exceed the limits laid down by the treaty on reducing conventional arms.

Furthermore, 2,500-3,000 Russian "blue helmets" may turn up in Abkhazia far sooner than they fly to Azerbaijan. Agreement was reached to that effect during the Abkhazian-Georgian talks in Moscow 14 May. The draft of the relevant directive is already on the Russian president's desk and, although the Georgian parliament's negative reaction to this agreement is well known—some deputies in Tbilisi even described it as "total capitulation"—Eduard Shevardnadze's support for it is assured and the document is expected to be signed any day now.

The Russian troops are to be stationed along the Inguri River on the Abkhazian side and also in Galskiy Rayon and the Kodor Gorge. Many experts believe that this is the only means of first stopping the bloodshed in this area and creating the conditions for the return of refugees, who, according to various sources, number over 250,000.

The talks held at the Russian Defense Ministry on the eve of the publication of this edition of the newspaper involving the leaders of the Russian, Azerbaijani, Armenian, and Nagorno-Karabakh military departments were also filled with concern to stop the bloodshed. They were headed by Army General Pavel Grachev. As in recent years, the "older brother" had a tough, exacting discussion with his "foolish younger brothers," sometimes resorting to ultimatums. He even made a threat: Unless the sides agree right now on a cease-fire and fulfill the protocol signed 18 February, they can clear off home.

The "younger brothers" agreed submissively. The Azerbaijani minister's feeble attempt to link disengagement with the immediate liberation of the occupied territories was cut short by Grachev's remark that this point is already been enshrined in the February protocol and it is the military's task to resolve not political issues but issues within their direct purview.

The military decided on a cease-fire as of 0000 hours on 17 May and also agreed to determine the lines of disengagement between the warring forces and their materiel prior to 24 May; moreover, the Russian minister indicated this line in advance—the distance from the contact line was agreed at a symmetrical 5-10 km. In some cases, where the neutral zone passes through population centers, the disengagement will be asymmetrical, the aim being to protect the interests of the population still living in these areas and not create fresh floods of refugees. Gen. Grachev said: "There will be no refugees wherever my soldiers are. I give you my guarantee of that."

Following the disengagement of the warring parties' forces and materiel 1,800 CIS soldiers and officers will be brought into the security zone. "The CIS is Russia," Grachev said. In addition, Colonel General Georgiy Kondratyev, leader of Russia's peacemaking forces and Grachev's deputy, will be given a reinforced motorized rifle battalion to respond immediately to any truce violators. Forty-nine well armed observation posts, including infantry fighting vehicles and tanks, will be set up along the border between the warring sides with the task of keeping the peace.

The Azerbaijani side's request for the Russian peacemakers to include CSCE observers won unconditional support, but it was agreed not to wait for them. The cost of each day of bloodshed is all too great. All parties pledged to pay for the Russian troops' presence in the conflict zone. Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh each pledged to pay 33 percent of all expenditure, while Russia was allocated 1 percent, although everyone realized that you can hardly wait for money from anyone and Russia will have to pay for everything.

Needless to say, the protocol on the introduction of troops into the Azerbaijani-Karabakh conflict zone, like the agreement to station Russian soldiers between the warring sides in Georgia and Abkhazia, does not resolve all the problems. Moreover, they even exacerbate them: The United Nations has not given Russia a peacemaking mandate for its army, the consent of the parliaments of the states involved in the conflict has not been secured, the Russian troops' presence on the territory of sovereign countries has no legal status, the presence of observation posts alone is still no guarantee of peace and tranquillity in the region—there are all too many weapons there and all too many people have gotten accustomed to feeding themselves not by working but by war and looting—but.... There is hope of an end to the large-scale bloodshed, an end to the wars in the Caucasus—incidentally these wars have been going on for 130 years now, and that is quite some time.

The war-weary peoples of the Transcaucasus are still relying on Russia and its army. Politicians must not kill that faith.

ITAR-TASS Carries Press Review for 18 May

LD1805044994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0435 GMT 18 May 94

["Press Review"—ITAR-TASS headline]

[Text] Moscow May 18 ITAR-TASS—Negotiations in Moscow on the settlement of the Karabakh conflict, in which Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh took part, is one of the leading topics in today's national press in Russia.

KRASNAYA ZVEZDA says the ceasefire orders issued by the defence ministers of the three negotiating parties mark the beginning of implementation in practice of the first stage of the process which is expected to put an end to the bloodletting conflict. The newspaper stresses that the agreement between the three caucasian parties was achieved "through the mediation of Russian Defence Minister, Army General Pavel Grachev".

NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA points out that further negotiations were regrettably disrupted by the refusal of the Azeri Defence Minister, Mamedrafi Mamedov to sign the document on ceasefire. The minister left for Baku without as much as saying goodbye. "Many observers believe that after the Azeri delegation refused to sign the Moscow accord, the Azeri leadership will continue to pursue the old policy and seek to rectify the situation at the front with the help of new offensive", the newspaper said. "The hope for peace in Karabakh has proved futile", the headline of the comment reads.

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI comment on the resignation of centrist Sergey Shakhray as the minister of nationalities and regional policy and concludes that "another reshuffling is taking place at the top". The newspaper notes that attempts had repeatedly been made earlier to divorce Shakhray and "the nationality cause which he had espoused". The newspaper finds surprising the promotion to the cabinet of Nikolay Travkin, the leader of the Duma faction of the Democratic Russian Party. The daily suggests that he is likely to replace Vice-Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha, "a most influential figure in the government", who is in charge of reforms as a whole and of agricultural sector in particular.

TRUD is baffled by the fact that Sergey Shakhray "failed to clear up his own understanding of the reasons behind his sacking and evaded direct answers to direct questions from journalists". TRUD concludes that "traditions seem to have remained the same on the Russian political olympus which existed on the Soviet one: The veil of secrecy guards closely whatever is happening in the tope echelons of power, where everything is not half so idyllic as Russian citizens would like to believe".

RABOCHAYA TRIBUNA cites several versions of the scenario behind the firing of Sergey Shakhray as the minister of nationalities. One is that Nikolay Yegorov has been appointed to replace Shakhray in order "to weaken the political influence of Shakhray as the leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord (PRES).

ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI publish an interview with President Martti Ahtisaari of Finland who told a group of Russian journalists in the eve of his departure for Moscow that the present stage in relations between Russia and Finland is particularly good and stressed that his visit to Russia would facilitate their further development.

KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA publishes an article about President Boris Yeltsin by vice-president of the Russian Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs Valentin Feodorov, who used to be deputy economics minister of Russia. "This is my third article about Boris Yeltsin, written just as the previous ones, from the positions of his critically-minded supporter", Feodorov says. He points out that "people are unable to keep pace with soaring prices, they eat less and worse and die prematurely, as they carry the burden of the price liberation which is a "grandiose affair".

PRAVDA offers an interview with Duma Deputy Anatoliy Lukyanov, who declares that "the (December 1993) referendum in the country was illegitimate: the Constitution was supported by less than one-third of the voters. The rest were against the policy pursued by the president's team. It means that the Yeltsin Constitution cannot serve as the basis for advancement".

Preparations for G-7 Naples Summit Under Way

LD1705163194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 17 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaly Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Russia has joined preparations for the political part of the Naples summit which will involve eight countries, Interfax was told Tuesday by Deputy Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, who recently returned from Rome where he took part in the meeting of deputy foreign ministers.

He said that the political part of the summit will involve eight countries. As to the economic part of the summit, countries will act according to the formula "seven plus one".

Obviously, the G-7 will consider behind closed doors the macro-economic situation in the world, for example, the currency and financial relations.

At the meeting in line with the formula "seven plus one" the delegates will consider the pace of cooperation in support of the Russian reforms, he said. "We need concrete deeds and further shifts to materialize the understandings which were reached in the past years. I do not think we need more aid packages or graphic figures. Now it is a matter of the quality of cooperation, or what could be described as non-discrimination, open markets, the lifting of artificial obstacles on the road of Russia goods, services and capital."

Lavrov believes that one should not change the official name for the Group of Seven. The economic part is the basis for the group's activities. The "political eight" is a reality and the term used during the preparations for the summit, as well as during the correspondence between Russian President Yeltsin and Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev with their counterparts, he said.

The deputy foreign minister is confident that joining the G-7 in political terms would enhance Russia's ability to exert influence on world political processes. "Russia influences world politics regardless of its membership in one organization or another," Lavrov said.

He referred to the foreign ministers' conference on Bosnia held in Geneva recently as an example. "This kind of qualitatively new partnership, when the leading powers work out a common attitude and seek to pursue it through different organizations— the U.N., the CSCE, and the like—reflects our influence as well as our and our partners' readiness to take each other's interests into account and act jointly. This is the essence of what we call the political G-8 and multilateral strategic partnership."

"Considering the fast development of events on the world scene, it's hard to say what will be the essence of political statement to be issued by the summit in Naples on behalf of its chairman, the Italian Prime Minister," said Interfax's interviewee. "But the general topics are already evident—the situation in Bosnia, conflicts in Central America and in Africa, the nuclear problem on the Korean Peninsula, human rights...," he said.

"Russia maintains a full-scale political dialogue, turning or already turned into partnership, with each of the G-7 countries," Lavrov pointed out. "Such relations have their own specificities, of course, but this does not prevent us from finding common approaches to international problems. There are no fundamental differences or substantial disparities in the approaches to international affairs—to, say, non-proliferation problems, peace-keeping, the efforts to strengthen and raise the effectiveness of the U.N., regional conflicts and crises," he said.

G-7 Members Differ on Russia's Admission

PM1705133194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Aleksey Portanskiy article: "Yeltsin Will No Longer Be Just a Guest at the G-7 Meeting in Naples"]

[Text] World news agencies have reported that the world's seven leading industrial powers have finally consented to Russia's full and equal participation in the political part of the next G-7 summit to be held in Naples in July.

This means that President Boris Yeltsin will be able to partly cast off the status of a guest, which he had at the previous meetings in Munich and Tokyo, and to start feeling that he is on equal terms with the members of the prestigious world club.

As much as a year ago, before the last G-7 meeting in the Japanese capital, Moscow had advocated that Russia should take a full and equal part in the political debate and that a common statement by the eight leaders should be adopted on its results. But there was insufficient time then to work out a new formula for our involvement in the work of the summit, and the scheme was not realized.

Moscow has now advanced the same initiative in good time, and it has been supported, in principle, in the capitals of the seven most developed states. In fact, however, there is no full coincidence of opinions among the members of the club concerning the form of Russia's admission to it.

Different opinions exist in respect of the formula for Russia's participation in G-7 conferences: "Seven plus one" or "eight," Japanese Foreign Minister K. Kakizawa declared recently. But, in any case, Tokyo believes that Russia must play a constructive role as a member of the world community. This politely streamlined wording conceals, in actual fact, the special position of the Land of the Rising Sun.

A whole number of Japanese leaders, including Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata, say that it is "too soon" at present to speak of granting the Russian Federation full and equal membership of the group of seven leading industrial powers and that they should confine themselves at this stage to the "seven plus one" formula, on whose basis Moscow has been admitted to regular G-7 summits since 1992. Tokyo's main argument here is that the Russian Federation is a recipient of international aid, which is being given to it precisely by members of the G-7 club. Therefore it would allegedly be strange to see donor states and a recipient state sitting at the same table on equal terms.

This logic is far from impeccable, however. Russia, as our top government figures emphasize, occupies a special position because, on the one hand, it needs support for the reforms while, on the other hand, it is a donor itself in respect of the CIS republics and some developing countries. The burden of this aid is no less than that of the G-7 in respect of Russia. In order to prevent unnecessary debate and misunderstandings arising in this sphere, it is necessary to record Russia's credits to the republics of the former Union as credits of international financial organizations. This position is held both by Moscow and by the IMF leadership.

While acknowledging Russia's leading role in world affairs, particularly in settling the conflict in the Balkans, nevertheless Tokyo would not like to admit it yet to full and equal participation in G-7 meetings even in a curtailed form, in other words only in the political part of the debate, until it has secured some concessions on the issue of the "northern territories."

Moscow, for its part, certainly is not seeking to force events, realizing that conditions are not yet ripe for full-scale participation in meetings of the seven leading world powers—this requires more serious market transformations in the economy. But, at the same time, Russia cannot wait, as in former times, for all the chief issues to be discussed without it and for them to invite its leader only afterward and to brief him on the decisions adopted.

Russia Urged Not To Procrastinate With PFP Program

PM1705193994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 p 3

[Leonid Mlechin article: "Moscow's Absurd Game with NATO Will Open the Bloc's Doors to East Europe and the Baltic"]

[Text] The Partnership for Peace [PFP] program was an act of courtesy to Russia on the part of the West. Why has this been forgotten in Russia? "The process of drafting a joint Russian-NATO document be dragged out for months or even years," a high-ranking Russian diplomat told IZVESTIYA.

If that happens, there is little chance of signing a document: The closer the presidential elections come, the less desire there will be to establish partnership relations with NATO. Will Defense Minister Pavel Grachev drop a hint to the NATO members about this? He is awaited in Brussels, where they hope he will finally be able to explain to the North Americans and West Europeans what it is Russia wants from NATO. Although it does not seem that Moscow itself knows the answer to that question.

"The signing of the Partnership for Peace program is secondary to Moscow," the Russian diplomat explained to IZVESTIYA. "The establishment of new relations with NATO in the political sphere and the recognition of Russia's special role on the continent and its right to influence decisionmaking are primary. NATO appreciates what has caused the delay in signing the Partnership for Peace document and is not putting pressure on us...."

NATO's Partnership for Peace program, which has provoked a storm of objections in the Russian political world, emerged as a result of a request (not to say a demand) from Moscow that the East European and Baltic states not be admitted to NATO. At the end of last year this was a very important task for Russian diplomacy on the European plane.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel invited Andrey Kozyrev back to his own home in order to explain to him in an unofficial setting that all Moscow's former satellites wanted to join NATO and that NATO had no grounds whatsoever for refusing them. What did Moscow want from the West?

Russia's vigorous diplomacy was crowned with the utter humiliation of East Europe and the Baltic states: At the top-level NATO forum in January the latter were not admitted to the North Atlantic bloc. Mindful here of Russia's interests, the Americans devised Partnership for Peace, a vacuous program which binds no one to anything. The lofty words uttered at the time about "the importance of the first move" were only going to fool the greenhorns.

Only a few months have now passed, and Moscow, forgetting this background, is making complaints to the Americans and West Europeans: How dare you try to foist such a document on a great military power, a document which has been signed by the likes of Albania, Georgia, Lithuania, and other minor states?

The games being played over Partnership for Peace are the result, first, of a knee-jerk desire on the part of the opposition to reject anything proposed by the president and government, and, second, an atavistic hatred and fear of NATO.

The opposition refuses to understand here that the United States signed the same treaty establishing NATO in 1949 as Belgium or the Netherlands. However, this formal parity changes nothing as regards the correlation of real political weight and is forgotten when decisions are made. The vagueness of the NATO program is offensive to the East Europeans but convenient to Russia: You can negotiate about whatever you like.

Cynically speaking, in the whole East European area NATO is really interested only in building relations with Russia. Our country's participation or nonparticipation in the Partnership for Peace program changes nothing in that regard.

However, an ostentation reluctance to sign the program will have one obvious consequence: East Europe and the Baltic states will obtain yet another indisputable argument in their struggle to gain a NATO membership card. The readiness of above all the United States and Germany to oppose their pressure is in inverse proportion to Moscow's anti-NATO game.

Cooperation With NATO, Grachev Visit Viewed

LD1705154594 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Russian defense minister, Pavel Grachev, will go to Brussels on the 23d of this month on a three-day visit. He will submit at the NATO headquarters Russia's proposals for the NATO program Partnership for Peace. Here is what our observer Anatoliy Potapov writes about Russia's relations with NATO:

It is hard to guess what proposals the Russian defense minister will take to NATO. Most likely it is not going to be one of those documents currently under preparation by Russian experts. Apparently General Grachev intends to talk about the terms in which Russia will participate in the NATO program.

Given some statements made recently by President Boris Yeltsin and other Russian leaders, there are no objections to Russia's participation in the Partnership for Peace program. The single document, obligatory for signing by all the member states, does not perceive any concrete actions or joint decisions. As many European politicians describe it, it is only a declaration of intentions. The signing of the document will not commit Russia to anything. The document does not outline any prospects for cooperation. Then what is this partnership all about?

The point is that Russia is seeking serious, large-scale, equal cooperation with NATO. Russia has the right to expect NATO will not disregard its special geopolitical situation, its role on the world scene and, finally, its military might no other European state can boast of. Thus it is necessary to find a reasonable combination of the equity of all participants in the NATO program and Russia's special role in it. This is the essence of the problem of Russia's partnership with NATO. As for Russia, it is preparing a bilateral document with clear-cut, concrete parameters of partnership.

So far, the concept of the future document is a matter of guesswork. Hopefully it will reflect the principles of preserving the organizational structure and the unique character of the Russian army, now numbering some 3 million, and the standards of its often unique armaments. Russia is a European but also an Asian state. It would be reasonable to word the future document so as to rule out all possible fears and speculations on the part of its Asian neighbors.

It's worthy to note that some East European countries regard the NATO program only as the first stage of their full-fledged membership in this bloc. Some statements by prominent Western politicians support such aspirations. While Russia's idea of the Partnership for Peace is different, Russia wants all European states to join efforts to promote stability on the continent. It does not see this document as a way to extend NATO in the eastern direction, a way to a new splitting of Europe. Russia is open and straightforward about this, seeking to provide a firm basis for its wide-range [as heard] cooperation with the North Atlantic bloc.

Russian Technology Show in U.S. 'Real Triumph'

PM1705142594 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Report by Mikhail Pogorelyy of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA: "'Technologies From Russia' Astound United States"]

[Text] The three-day conference "Technologies From Russia-94" in the United States has been a real triumph for Russian applied science and leading sectors of industry. But the exhibition of the latest achievements of Russian designers and manufacturers held simultaneously at the Washington conference center evoked even greater interest among American entrepreneurs. Over 200 Russian firms presented the latest developments in the sphere of machine building, the aerospace and medical industries, information technology, and communications for the verdict of U.S. specialists.

Judging by the U.S. press reaction, what made the greatest impression on visitors to the exhibition was the "Thermoplane" [Termoplan]—the product of a consortium of enterprises in the Russian oil and gas complex and mining and timber industries. It is an airship of a fundamentally new design in the form of a "flying saucer" capable of carrying 3.5 tonnes of freight or 15-20 passengers. The industrial version of the "Thermoplane" will be capable of delivering up to 600 tonnes of freight distances of up to 5,000 km—superb transportation for the north and taiga and desert regions.

Transatlantic businessmen also showed interest in units for the production of synthetic diamonds and metal-cutting tools produced on the basis of them, whose productivity is 7-10 times higher than metal tools. The six-wheeled minitractor employing technology from our "lunokhods" [moon buggies] also aroused public curiosity. In general, many of the projects on show at the exhibition were characterized by extensive use of conversion developments.

Over two dozen contracts for joint production or further development of promising technologies and technical prototypes have already been signed as a result of the conference and exhibition.

Russia Hopes To Repay 40 Percent of Debt in 1994

LD1705141194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1258 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—Russia wants to pay only 40 per cent of its foreign debt payable in 1994 and hopes the Paris Club of creditors would accept the proposals at talks in the second half of June, according to Deputy Prime Minister Aleksandr Shokhin who told a press conference on Tuesday that such a position is called by the existing financial possibilities of the country.

Shokhin, who is the main foreign debt negotiator, said the federal budget envisages only a little over four billion dollars to cover all external debts while Russia owes the Paris Club one billion dollars of interest only for the first quarter of this year. The total Russian debt amounts to 80 billion dollars.

Shokhin said that if Russia is made to cover the whole debt payable in 1994 this would mean curtailing of other budget appropriations or higher inflation. "We hope that the Western partners will understand that if Russia fulfils its foreign debt commitments in full volume, this would inevitably result in surpassing the budget-fixed amount for servicing the foreign debt which means either curtailing other appropriations or spiraling up inflation", he stressed.

Shokhin recalled that the Paris Club had twice met the requests of the Russian Government taking into consideration the difficult reforms in the country. The creditors had first agreed to freeze for 15 years the payment of 15 billion dollars of the Russian debt and then rescheduled the payment of last year interest for the first four months of 1994.

Russia is currently preparing concrete proposals to the Paris Club which will be submitted before the G-7 summit in Naples, according to Shokhin.

Stepashin Charges CIS States Spying on Russia

LD1705132994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1118 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Director of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) Sergey Stepashin speaking in Almaty on Tuesday reaffirmed that the security services of some CIS states were spying on Russia, notably the Baltic states and Georgia. He also reported that a group of saboteurs from Armenia was detained recently, he added that no such incidents occur with Kazakhstan.

A number of government officials were sacked following FSK reports to the president, Stepashin told Interfax. He said many of them were of a fairly high rank, but gave no names.

The FSK chief said Yeltsin was aware of the incidents of government corruption and taking appropriate measures. He also spoke of getting support from Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "who is just as tough as the president" on matters of government corruption.

The FSK chief also spoke of anti-terrorist squads being set up in Moscow and parts of Russia.

Russia Withdraws Strategic Units From Belarus

LD1805121094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1144 GMT 18 May 94

[By BELINFORM correspondent Leonid Tratsevskiy for TASS]

[Text] Minsk May 18 TASS—The first train with missiles launchers and other equipment of the strategic missile complexes RS-12m Topol has left a station near the Belarusian city of Slutsk, heading for Russia.

This is the beginning of the withdrawal of one of the regiments of a Russian missile division which was stationed in Belarus. Two other divisions of the Russian strategic force will be withdrawn from Belarus before the end of 1995. Thirty-six launchers will be transported to Russia before the year's end.

CIS States Still Failing To Pay Gas Bills

LD1705141294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Turkmenistan has resumed gas exports to Ukraine in full after the Russian and Ukrainian state gas companies reached agreement on the terms of gas delivery via Russian territory on Saturday, a Russian company official told Interfax.

Turkmenistan ceased gas exports to Ukraine early this year after Kiev's failure to service its gas bill of 600 million dollars. Until recently, Moscow was helping Ukraine by stepping up its own gas exports to that country under a deal the two sides struck in the Russian capital on March 10.

It is now known that Russia and Ukraine are due to start talks in Moscow on Tuesday to discuss the whole range of bilateral relations including Kiev's failure to service its debt for gas imports from Russia.

Kiev does not follow the schedule of debt repayment put down in a protocol the two sides signed on April 12, a senior official of Russia's Gazprom company said.

He also said that Belarus' gas debt did not increase as fast as Ukraine's and Moldova's debt (Russia cut back gas exports to Kishinev [Chisinau] by 30 percent in April).

The official said Moldova was holding talks with a number of European banks to try to get loans to be able to repay its debt to Moscow.

Under bilateral agreements, Russia's gas exports to Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova this year will run at 16.4, 54.8 and 3.1 billion cu meters respectively.

Schedule for Repayment of Ukrainian Oil Debt Set Up

LD1705191694 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] At the Russian-Ukrainian talks held in the Russian Ministry for Cooperation with the CIS countries (Minsotrudnichestvo) on Tuesday, the Ukrainian side "pledged to take measures for repayment of part of its debt to Russia for fuel supplies." The Agency of Oil Information learned this from well-informed sources in Minsotrudnichestvo. According to them, the debt as of May 1 is more than 1,485 trillion rubles, including for gas—1.22 trillion rubles, for oil—200.6 billion rubles, electricity—29 billion rubles, coal—21.8 billion rubles, oil products—6.5 billion rubles. Ukraine's debt for Russian fuel increased last month by 440 billion rubles (in all CIS countries—by 900 billion).

Sources noted that during the talks which "passed in a businesslike and friendly atmosphere," in particular, a timetable for repaying debts for Russian oil was set up, under which Ukraine will pay Russia 125 million dollars by the end of May.

As for the debt for Russian gas supplies, in the opinion of Minsotrudnichestvo officials, close and permanent contacts between the Russian Gazprom and the Ukrainian Ukrgazprom bring "positive results."

The sources noted that Gazprom has no intention of cutting gas supplies to Ukrainian consumers in the near future, although Ukraine is failing to implement a number of provisions in the Russian-Ukrainian protocols of March 10 and 12. "This is not the time for such drastic actions," they noted.

During the talks the two sides agreed to carry out "joint control" over supplies of Ukrainian equipment and material-technical resources for repayment of debt to Gazprom and to speed up the signing of a contract for the construction of 170,000 square meters of housing for gas workers by Ukrainian construction organizations.

Ukraine Said Asking Too Much for Bombers

LD1705163294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1436 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Yurkin]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—Ukraine is ready to sell 42 strategic bombers which it inherited from the former Soviet Union to Russia, but claims eight billion U.S. dollars for them (15 trillion roubles), while Russia believes 217 billion roubles are enough.

Although Russia needs the planes it will not pay such a price for them. "If Ukraine does not agree to our terms the planes will remain on its territory," Liutenant-General Yuriy Merkulov from the Defence Ministry told TASS.

Military experts told TASS on Tuesday that Russia needs the bombers as they are not liable to reduction under the START I Treaty. They will be decommissioned only after their service time expires.

At present the Russian Air Force has 77 heavy bombers and it is hard to build new ones because of financial difficulties. No changes are planned by the Defence Ministry regarding the number of bombers.

Defence Ministry sources also told TASS that Russian estimates were made in 1993 prices and took into account ammortization costs, but Ukraine objected to such an approach.

At the same time Kiev has no money and technical possibilities to maintain the bombers in proper order by itself.

Humanitarian Aid Flown to Russians in Armenia

LD1605122094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1202 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS string correspondent Marina Ryklina]

[Text] Moscow May 16 TASS—Russian Ministry for Emergencies sponsored a flight of an IL-76 aircraft from Moscow to Yerevan with humanitarian aid for Armenian Russian-speaking population.

Several Armenia-based Russian communities applied earlier to the Russian Government for help. The ministry prepared for delivery 10 tonnes of flour, five tonnes of baby food and 12 tonnes of canned meat.

After the plane landed at the Zvartnots airport in Yerevan, the humanitarian supplies were taken to the Russian Embassy in Armenia, where they will be distributed to the needy via the Russian communities' structures.

More on Security Services Pact With Kazakhstan

PM1805101194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 18 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Unattributed report: "Wanting To Harmonize Counterintelligence Services"]

[Text] The special services of Kazakhstan and Russia have not conducted and never will conduct work against each other. This was stated yesterday by Sergey Stepashin, director of the Russian Federation Federal Counterintelligence Service [FCS], at a press conference in Alma-Ata [Almaty] following the signing of a number of documents on cooperation between the two countries' special services. In Alma-Ata the leaders of the Russian FCS and the Kazakhstani National Security Committee signed protocols of cooperation in the sphere of combating international terrorism, ensuring the safety of civil air routes, economic counterintelligence, the fight against smuggling, drugs trafficking, and corruption, the effective utilization in mutual interests of the operational and technical potential of RADINT counterintelligence subunits, and ensuring the safety of special military and other international shipments on rail transport. This is the first time that such cooperation has been undertaken within the CIS countries on such a wide range of issues, it was noted at the press conference.

Grachev Proposes Withdrawal Ceremony in Reichstag

PM1705124394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Boris Lysenko report: "Pavel Grachev Proposes Holding Reichstag Session"]

[Text] Berlin—Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev has voiced a desire to include a session in the Reichstag building as part of the ceremonies to mark the Russian troops withdrawal from Germany.

We can assume that the discussion of this proposal from Pavel Grachev will not be easy. Such a request was made last year by Colonel General Matvey Burlakov, commander in chief of the Western Group of Forces, but nobody took it seriously at the time.

Sobchak, UK's Prince Charles Address Businessmen

LD1805090394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0715 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Andrey Serov, Lev Rumyantsev, and Lev Frolov]

[Text] St. Petersburg May 18 TASS—Prince Charles, currently visiting here, called for the creation of "easier conditions" for foreign investors in Russia. Addressing the forum of leaders of the business world, now under way here, the Prince of Wales expressed satisfaction with the fact that Russia, particularly St. Petersburg, was already carrying out several concrete projects with the participation of British businessmen. He said that if St. Petersburg was regarded in Russia as a window into Europe, it was for him a window into Russia. He believes that the cityscape of any centre of population is important for the successful development of entrepreneurship and St. Petersburg was lucky in this respect. The monotype architecture of many other modern megapolises makes them spiritless, which has a negative effect on business, he stated.

The prince dwelt on the responsibility of entrepreneurship, on the need to ensure proper balance between wealth and the social sphere. In his opinion, a market economy cannot decide by itself the task of building up a sound society, but can combat such phenomena as hunger and poverty. It is most important, at the same time, to safeguard the environment.

Addressing the forum, St. Petersburg Mayor Anatoliy Sobchak said that the West realises that Russia has lived through the most difficult stage of the reforms. If no new mistakes are made in the course of the ongoing reforms, the country's economy will begin to perk up by the end of 1994. Sobchak criticised the Western mass media which frequently speculates on such subjects as growing crime in Russia and its alleged neoimperialist designs. This desire to slur Russia is explained by their realisation that the reviving Russian economy will become an increasingly active competitor on the international market. The mayor believes that such negative tendencies are not be seen in relations with Great Britain and that cooperation between that country and Russia has "brilliant prospects."

On Tuesday, the British guests called at the St. Petersburg Mariinskiy Hospital. Its building was designed by architect Giacomo Quarenghi early last century. It, so to speak, illustrates the extraordinary history of Russia's first multi-profile clinic. The hospital was intended for the poor and was patronaged by the imperial family until the revolution of 1917. It was backed by generous charity donations. As the entire Russian public health service, this hospital, catering to more than 30,000 patients a year, is today badly in need of investments. "The positive emotions, evoked by Prince Charles' visit, had, without doubt, a curing effect on our patients," chief physician of the Mariinskiy Hospital Alla Popova said.

Prince Charles talked with a group of St. Petersburg businessmen in the library of the hospital. They discussed possible investment projects in the humanitarian sphere. "It is yet difficult to say anything certain about the initiatives of our potential British patrons, but our foundation is ready to cooperate with them in the sphere of charity," ITAR-TASS was told by Lyudmila Nurusova, president of the Mariinskiy Foundation.

Prince Charles' St. Petersburg agenda includes a visit to one more medical establishment—the hospice clinic for incurables. The distinguished guest plans to visit it on May 19, the last day of his stay in Russia.

Swiss Economy Chief Sees Scope for Broader Ties

PM1805092794 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Jean-Pascal Delumuraz, chief of the Swiss Department of Public Economy, by Konstantin Pribytkov: "Switzerland Comes Closer For Russians"]

[Text] Bern—Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, federal adviser and chief of the department (minister) of public economy of Switzerland, has been visiting Moscow at the invitation of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

During his visit an agreement was signed on trade and economic cooperation between our two countries.

On the eve of the trip ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov interviewed Mr Delamuraz. The minister said, in particular:

"I am sure that Russian-Swiss relations have a big future. The agreement we have signed is intended to start a new chapter in partnership links between the two states. Switzerland wants the transformations in Russia to succeed. Everything that contributes to strengthening the liberal order in the world is of fundamental significance, in the Swiss government's view. The trip is a public expression of the Swiss will for cooperation with the Russian Federation."

The federal adviser sees the present level of trade and economic relations as "relatively modest and much lower than it could be." While the average annual volume of trade with the former USSR exceeded two billion Swiss francs, last year it was approximately 700 million, which is "clearly not enough." "Russia needs us, and we need an economically developed Russia."

[Pribytkov] How did the collapse of the former USSR affect bilateral trade?

[Delamuraz] It was destructive, certainly. We are currently at the stage of reestablishing our economic contacts along decentralized lines. Where we used to have one partner, we now have dozens. I think one major problem is finance and the need to create an effective and reliable banking system.

[Pribytkov] Investments in Russia are still regarded by some Western businessmen as very risky. Do you agree?

[Delamuraz] Indeed, capital investments in Russia are particularly risky. As we get to know one another better and establish relations of personal trust, these risks will become easier to calculate and predict. A reliable juridical system is of paramount importance in this respect. Swiss investors are notoriously cautious. But once they get down to the job they remain dedicated to it and prove themselves to be reliable partners. I hope that our relations in the investments sphere will become more intensive in the next few months and years.

[Pribytkov] As is known, Switzerland has instituted credit guarantees to help countries with transitional economies. What is the future of these credits?

[Delamuraz] Our assistance for Russia and the other CIS states is only now becoming effective. I might mention the recently instituted line of credit guarantees for Russia in the sum of 100 million Swiss francs. We are also studying and implementing a number of specific projects in the spheres of technical assistance and infrastructure development. This is just the initial stage. But no matter what foreign governments do, state funds are always limited, so, ultimately, economic cooperation must be driven by private entrepreneurs and investors.

[Pribytkov] Russian officials are urging Western partners to lift trade restrictions. This would help the reforms even more than other forms of assistance. What do you think?

[Delamuraz] I entirely agree that trade is better than aid. Trade partners are responsible for what they say. Markets have to be even more open. In our case, I think I can say that the Swiss market is wide open to all foreign goods, regardless of their provenance.

[Pribytkov] What spheres of economic cooperation can be regarded as the most promising, in your view?

[Delamuraz] I think there are many spheres in which our two countries could cooperate more intensively and obtain mutual benefit. The foundation of Swiss industry is made up, in particular, of small and medium-sized enterprises. As for specific sectors of industry, our companies have acquired a worldwide reputation in such spheres as machine building and the chemical, pharmaceutical, watchmaking, and food industries. Most of these sectors are distinguished by highly intensive research and know-how. Swiss financial and insurance services are highly specialized and competitive.

Argentine Foreign Minister on Talks With Kozyrev

LD1705141794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1303 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Voropayev]

[Text] Moscow may 17 TASS—"You can be optimistic, because the reforms, which took the other countries several decades to accomplish, are proceeding at a much faster pace in your country," Argentine Minister for Foreign Affairs Guido di Tella, currently paying an official visit to the Russian capital, told ITAR-TASS.

"Much is being written in the Western press about the catastrophic situation in Russia," he said. "However, I got quite a different impression. I am witnessing a country which is attaining its goals in spite of huge difficulties. The situation in Russia is difficult, indeed, but it should not be gauged by the same yardsticks as in Western Europe. They must be different for Russia. In my opinion, Russia is today enjoying great respect on the international arena," the minister stated.

Touching on his talks with Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, Guido di Tella described them as frank and friendly, conducive to the raising of mutual relations to a qualitatively new level.

Assessing the present state of the Argentine-Russian relations, the minister said that they were unquestionably better than at any other past period, because "it is very difficult to be on friendly terms with communists". It is possible to promote friendly business relations with

Russia today, "because we speak the same language, think in like terms, adhere to principles of tolerance and constructive relations".

The minister believes that Russia has a great future. "Naturally," he said, "development never runs smoothly. There are always ups and downs." Noting that Russia was using different means to promote its reforms, the minister stressed that it was achieving successes in spite of all the existing difficulties. In his opinion, the only thing that Russia needed today was "some order in the country. It must not invent any new social systems".

Di Tella Stresses Cooperation

LD1705202194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1910 GMT 17 May 94

[by ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Konstantin Zhukovskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—The Russian-Argentinean documents recently signed in Moscow bring the bilateral relations onto a new level, said Argentinean Foreign Minister Guido di Tella.

Argentina is a key Latin American state, and Russia is working to expand and establish contacts with regional political organizations and economic groups.

Although no economic cooperation documents have been signed, it is not accidental Guido di Tella is accompanied by a large group of Argentinean businessmen. In the words of Secretary for Foreign Economic Relations of the Argentinean Foreign Ministry Jorge Campbell, the visit opens up broad prospects for the expansion of bilateral trade and economic cooperation in various spheres.

When in St. Petersburg and Moscow the Argentinean businessmen met local entrepreneurs and were received by Deputy Russian Minister for Foreign Economic Relations Vladimir Karastin. Upon his return from St. Petersburg, Guido di Tella said that his ministry will render comprehensive political support to all new forms of bilateral trade and economic cooperation if the business community initiates the expansion of bilateral relations.

The Russian-Argentinean diplomatic relations were established in 1885. Now that Argentina is a major member of the South American common market, Russian interest in this state has considerably increased. Argentina also has a large Russian diaspora.

The Moscow documents is the basis and the upper part of the "bilateral cooperation iceberg", said Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev upon the completion of negotiations with his Argentinean colleague. Argentina is a member of the United Nations Security Council, and the Russian-Argentinean cooperation has both bilateral and global dimensions, he stressed.

The Moscow visit of Guido di Tella is a landmark in bilateral and Russian-Latin American relations, he said.

In his turn, the Argentinean foreign minister believes in the Russian future and considers the Russian Federation to be a great world power. The only thing necessary is to put the country in order and abstain from inventing new social systems, he said.

Foreign Ministry Welcomes Elections in Panama

LD1705162594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1420 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—The Russian Foreign Ministry welcomes free democratic elections in Panama at which Ernesto Peres Balladares won, ministry spokesman Grigoriy Karasin told a briefing on Tuesday.

He stressed that "among political, public circles and businessmen of Panama there is a broad consensus regarding further development of Russian-Panamanian relations."

Karasin expressed hope that under the government of Balladares the relations between the two countries "will considerably progress" in various directions which were reflected in the bilateral declaration signed during a recent visit to Moscow by Panamanian Foreign Minister Jose Raul Mulino.

Russia To Send Aid to Rwandan Refugees

LD1705143194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1411 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondents Boris Krivoshey and Aleksandr Krylovich]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—Russia decided to set up a mobile unit in Tanzania to deliver aid to Rwandan refugees, a spokesman of the Russian Foreign Ministry told a briefing on Tuesday, adding that the implementation of the action, which was agreed upon by the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations and the department of UN High Commissioner on Refugees, will begin on Wednesday.

"The Russian diplomacy resorts to active efforts in order to find a way out of the Rwandan crisis", Grigoriy Karasin said. He stressed that Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev had sent a letter to his counterparts in Tanzania, Uganda and Zaire calling to use the prestige of their countries and stop the fratricidal war in Rwanda.

Besides, Russia urged the warring sides to immediately cease fire, resume negotiations and continue the settlement process, he added.

Russian Trawler Seized Off Namibian Coast

LD1705192794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1733 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Aleksandr Prosvetov]

[Text] Windhoek May 17 TASS—The "Vostochnoye Okno" (Eastern Window), a Vladivostok-based shipping company, failed in its attempt to "open a window" to southern Africa. The trawler "Vostochnoye Okno-1", belonging to this Russian firm, has been arrested in the Walvis Bay port on the Atlantic Coast of Namibia, under a supreme court of Namibia decision. The Namibian branch of the company owes a huge sum to its partners.

Two fishing companies of Namibia, "Erongo Sea Products" and "T.N.P. Fishing", sued the Russian company for over two million Namibian dollars (about 550,000 U.S. dollars). This amount was made up from the cost of supplying ships and credits paid against future fishings. Recently the court ruled the claims justified.

The Namibian representation of the "Vostochnoye Okno" was fishing in Namibia's coastal zone with the help of four trawlers. Now this fleet is disintegrated. The "Vostochnoye Okno-2", one of the vessels, was transferred to recover debts to the "Sovrybflot", the joint-stock company set up to replace former all-union foreign trade amalgamation. The crew of the second ship, "Alma", has established direct ties with Namibians. At last, the leased trawler "Venera-4" from Odessa, suspecting something wrong, headed home on "French leave" in March together with its fish catch, which was to be delivered to Zaire. As a result, the Odessa-based fishing amalgamation "Antarktida" has been declared company non-grata in the southern Africa.

Currently there are about 30 trawlers from Russia, Ukraine, Lithuania and Estonia, fishing for four companies off the Namibian coasts.

Russian Ship Detained in Liberia

LD1805084894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0713 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Oleg Osipov]

[Text] Abijan May 18 TASS—The Russian ship Zolotitsa has been detained in the capital of Liberia for "an illegal call at the port of Monrovia and unauthorized delivery of 81 foreigners to the country", the Liberian Ministry of Justice said in a statement released on Tuesday. The statement says that eleven employees of the immigration service in the port have been charged with "neglecting their duties".

The ship arrived in the port two weeks ago, and 81 persons suspected of being mercenaries disembarked, the statement says. They landed and disappeared before the immigration service employees had time to understand what was happening. It was not immediately known from what country they arrived and what was Zolotitsa's last port of call before Monrovia.

Asked by ITAR-TASS to comment on the incident, a Liberian Embassy official in Cote d'Ivoire replied that "he does not have any details of the case".

The other day the leader of one of the military-political groupings of Liberia's United Liberation Movement for Democracy Roosevelt Johnson accused the leader of another faction of the same grouping, Alhaji Kromah and his supporters from the Mandingo tribe of using the services of foreign mercenaries in fighting the ethnic group of Kran.

Kromah rejected the allegations as "groundless, slanderous and aimed at provoking unrest".

Government Holds Diamond Talks in South Africa

LD1805120894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1139 GMT 18 May 94

[By BUSINESS-TASS correspondent Robert Serebrennikov]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—The Russian Government pledged to see to it that agreements with "De Beers" international diamond giant are observed and no unauthorized shipments of Russian diamonds to the world market are made, according to a joint communique on the first round of Russian-De Beers talks forwarded to BUSINESS-TASS on Wednesday.

Russian Finance Minister Sergey Dubinin and "De Beers" chairman of the central selling organisation Nicky Oppenheimer also agreed after two-day talks which ended on Wednesday to abide in their cooperation by the agreement which expires in the end of 1995.

Russia wanted to change the agreement which envisages that 95 per cent of its diamonds are marketed through "De Beers" and five per cent independently. It strives to increase the independent share.

"Until the moment when any changes are agreed the sides remain adherent to the terms of the agreement which is valid until the end of 1995. Both sides pledge to adopt the necessary measures to cease shipments of Russian jewellery diamonds to the world market by bypassing the existing agreements on the sales of the products", according to the communique.

The sides also pledged their mutual responsibility for the fate of the world diamond market and the well-being of all diamond producers. They expressed hope that a new series of talks would restore the stable basis for future cooperation and thus will create guarantees for a further development of the diamond business for the benefit of both sides and the world diamond industry.

Mideast Envoy Holds Briefing on Current Issues

LD1705164394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1343 GMT 17 May 94

[From the "Diplomatic Panorama" feature: Reports by Diplomatic Correspondents Igor Porshnev, Vitaliy Trubetskoy and others]

[Text] Moscow takes a positive view of Baghdad's cooperation with the UN in the field of disarmament and hopes that this trend will consolidate, Viktor Posuvalyuk, Russian president's special Middle East envoy said at a briefing in Moscow Tuesday.

He said that this kind of cooperation would make the lifting of international sanctions against Iraq a real possibility. He said that it was essential that Iraq made up its mind about disarmament, allowed international observers in and recognized Kuwait's independence and borders.

Posuvalyuk said that the Syrian-Israeli settlement was at the moment the decisive element of an overall Middle East solution. He took note of the fact that the Syrian demand that Israel leave the Syrian territory captured in 1967 was difficult to reconcile with the Israeli demand that the border situation be normalized and security provided first.

He said that this issue was under discussion both in direct negotiations and through mediators and that hopeful signs were visible.

Posuvalyuk also said that he would go to Damascus shortly for consultations with officials of Syria and other Middle East nations involved in the peace process.

He said that 696 Russian nationals had been evacuated from Yemen before May 15, notably 453 from the north and 249 from the south. A total of about 400 Russian remained there, notably those who stayed on business and Russian women who had taken permanent residence there.

Posuvalyuk said that some of them did not bother to register with Russian offices in the country.

He called on the leaders of the two parts of Yemen to stop the fratricidal war. He went on to say that the calls had had no effect but Russia continued a dialog with Yemeni officials. He added that Russian diplomats were in continuous contact with the Yemeni leaders.

Comments on Iraqi Disarmament

LD1705195994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Moscow highly appraises cooperation between the UN and Baghdad in the sphere of disarmament and hopes that it will increase. This was stated by Russian president's envoy to the Middle East Viktor Posuvalyuk at a briefing in Moscow today.

He said this would create real conditions for the partial lifting of the international sanctions against Iraq. "It is necessary that Iraq define its position on disarmament and let international observers in. Baghdad also must recognize the independence of Kuwait and inviolability of its borders," Posuvalyuk pointed out.

Commenting on a settlement in the Middle East, Posuvalyuk stressed that relations between Syria and Israel were the main direction there. "Contradictions are very serious here. Damascus demands that Israel liberate the Syrian territories occupied in 1967 and Israel demands complete normalization of the situation on the border and security," he said.

Posuvalyuk emphasized that this issue was being discussed at direct talks between the parties and through mediators. He said that encouraging progress had been achieved.

He announced that he would go to Damascus in the next few days where he would hold consultations with representatives of Syria and other Middle East countries involved in the peace settlement in the region.

Posuvalyuk spoke on the situation in Yemen in details. He announced that 696 Russian citizens had been evacuated from Yemen by May 15.

Libyan Envoy Explains Stand on Lockerbie Case

LD1705145294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1415 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS diplomatic correspondent Yuriy Tyssovskiy]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—"The Libyan republic is in no way involved in the so-called 'Lockerbie case'. It condemns manifestations of terrorism in all their forms and is prepared to take part in the investigation of this tragic incident in order to punish the guilty," ITAR-TASS was told today by Libyan Ambassador to Russia Muhammad 'Husni Sha'ban.

The ambassador dwelt on the charges advanced against Libya the United States and Great Britain. Two Libyan citizens are known to be suspected of organising an explosion on board a Pan-American liner over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988. France accuses Libyan agents of blowing up a French liner, belonging to the UTA air company, in Niger in 1989. These incident claimed the lives of 449 people.

The ambassador noted that Libya had insisted on a "fair and just" investigation of the charges brought against its citizens, who should be first tried by a Libyan court. Later it had softened its stand and agreed that the investigation should be conducted by The Hague International Court. The United Nations and the Arab League could find an appropriate legal basis for this. It had also offered to conduct a joint investigation by representatives from the United States, Great Britain, Libya and several other states. According to Sha'ban, all these proposals were rejected by Washington and London. They continue to insist on the unconditional extradition of the suspects, to which Libya cannot agree, of course. The Arab League even offered to try the two Libyans by a court of Scottish judges and according to Scottish laws at The Hague International Court, but this compromise was turned down by the British side. On the whole, the Libyan leadership holds that the two Libyan citizens, whose crime has not been proved, are merely suspects, not even defendants. Hence, the demand for their extradition is legally ungrounded. "We decided to put off the case indefinitely, because we have exhausted all our arsenal of reasonable proposals and are now looking forward to constructive steps from the other side," Sha'ban said. The Arab League, the African Unity Organisation, and the Islamic Conference Organisation, accounting for the majority of the U.N. membership, have condemned the U.N. sanctions against Libya, imposed on Western insistence."

Asked by ITAR-TASS to describe the current state of Libyan-Russian relations, the ambassador noted that, in his opinion, the U.N. Security Council Resolution 748 of May 31, 1989, imposing international economic sanctions on Libya, was primarily intended to cause material and moral damage to Tripoli. Moreover, it was a deliberate blow, inflicted by the masterminds of the resolution on Libyan-Soviet relations, and on relations between Libya and the USSR's successor—Russia.

"The carefully worded boycott resolution," he said, "is spearheaded against the delivery to my country of armaments and other military hardware, which mostly came from Moscow. The embargo on air traffic was also mainly directed against Russia, with which we were then conducting talks on the improvement of air carriages. At the same time, the oil, which is being used by the West, remained outside the embargo. As a result, the damage caused to Libya and Russia amounted to several billion U.S. dollars. The treaties, agreements and contracts are to expire in all the spheres they cover only in 1997, but they have already been suspended, just as payments for Russian services in the sphere of economic deliveries, personnel training, maintenance of technical facilities, including military installations. In other words, the process of cooperation between the two countries was suspended.

The ambassador refused to give the exact figures of this cooperation, but, according to information received by ITAR-TASS from other sources, Tripoli's debt to Moscow totalled 21 billion U.S. dollars in the period from 1970 until today. Approximately 18 billions have already been paid.

In conclusion, Sha'ban expressed regret that Russia was voting in the U.N. Security Council for further sanctions against Libya. At the same time, he expressed satisfaction with the fact that Moscow was lately trying to mediate between Tripoli and the other parties to the conflict, but so far its initiatives have not evoked any response from the West.

Adamishin, Pakistan Leaders Discuss Tajik Issues

LD1705211194 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Pakistan and Russia are interested in developing their economic and political cooperation. This will contribute to the strengthening of peace and cooperation in Asia and will be an important factor in maintaining stability in the region. This opinion was expressed in an interview for ITAR-TASS by Anatoliy Adamishin, first deputy foreign minister of the Russian Federation. He completed his working visit to Islamabad today.

During his visit, the Russian diplomat discussed the situation in the region, and particularly in Tajikistan, with President Faruq Leghari and Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto. The Pakistani leaders said that Islamabad was ready to strain every effort so as to reduce tension on the Tajik border and to help the Tajik opposition and the government to find a common language. Also today, Adamishin has arrived in Delhi on a working visit.

Rybkin Stresses Cooperation With PRC

LD1705175794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1647 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Pavel Spirin]

[Text] Shanghai May 17 TASS—"I was told that May will become a 'Russian month' in China. I think there should also be a 'Russian year' and a 'Russian decade'," visiting Russian Duma Speaker Ivan Rybkin said here today.

"We can and must cooperate. Friendship with great neighbour China was created by many generations and it would be sinful to break it," Rybkin told ITAR-TASS after meeting Secretary of the Shanghai City Council of the Chinese Communist Party Wu Bangguo.

In the words of the Duma speaker, the official Chinese visit of Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin to begin next week will result in signing of several agreements, which are essentially important for the Russian economy.

The current visit of the Duma delegation aims to search for ways of bilateral cooperation. Despite the lack of time, the Russian parliament deputies have met Chinese Chairman and General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party Central Committee Jiang Zemin, Parliament Head Qiao Shi, Deputy State Council Premier Li Lanqing and Deputy Foreign Minister Tian Jiangpei.

The delegation is interested in the Chinese experience of economic reforms, stressed the Duma speaker. "When in

Shanghai, a major industrial center of China, we saw that the most vulnerable layers are protected in the course of market reforms. People are sure of their future", he added.

In the opinion of Rybkin, the Chinese market can become a most promising for Russian businessmen. From 1.5 to two billion U.S. dollars are transferred from Russia abroad each month, much of this money is invested in inefficient real estate. This money could be better used in creation of Russian-Chinese ventures, he said.

"Thousands of Shanghai joint ventures include only four with participation of Russian capital. It is too small. I am convinced that Russian-Chinese ventures are promising," said the speaker.

"Being the law-makers, we will support all decisions aiming to develop Russian-Chinese cooperation," he said.

On the same day, Ivan Rybkin visited a Chinese major metallurgical plant of Baoshan and the vegetable-growing farm of Luodian.

After meeting the Chinese communist leader, the Duma speaker left for the Shenzhen economic zone in the Chinese south, which is considered to be a model of the Chinese economic reforms.

Khabarovsk Leader Says PRC Border Agreement Unfair

PM1705132794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Boris Reznik report: "Khabarovsk Kray Governor Calls for Denunciation of Border Agreement With China"; accompanied by IZVESTIYA PRESS SERVICE report citing Russian Federation Foreign Ministry staffer]

[Text] Khabarovsk Kray—Viktor Ishayev, head of the Khabarovsk Kray Administration, has called the border agreement between Russia and China that was signed in May 1991 unfair and an infringement of Russian interests. This document, in his opinion, has not resolved the border problems that exist between our giant countries.

At a news conference Ishayev referred to "submerged reefs" that could create new problems in Russo-Chinese relations. For instance, Article 5 of the agreement claims that the border between China and Russia in navigable rivers runs down the center of the main channel, while in nonnavigable rivers it runs down the center of the river or the center of its main branch. And Article 4 prescribes that a joint demarcation commission should "determine in line with Article 5 of this agreement the **ownership of islands**...."

Russia could lose many valuable lands, Viktor Ishayev claims. In Maritime Kray alone China could gain around 1,000 hectares of fertile pastureland. The people of Khabarovsk are also put out, for instance, by this entry in Article 8 of the agreement: "The contracting parties agree that ships of various kinds, including warships, can sail from the Ussuri River into the Amur River past Khabarovsk and back again without let or hindrance...." Who would like foreign ships—much less, warships—to be sailing virtually in the city center?... The people of the Far East again find it impossible to come to terms with their Chinese neighbors' claims to the age-old Russian Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarov Islands.

The governor cited numerous examples of Chinese ships navigating our internal waters past Khabarovsk without let or hindrance. They often deviate from the main channel, enter other channels, take depth measurements, and photograph the area and installations.

IZVESTIYA PRESS SERVICE report: "Russian Foreign Ministry Disagrees"

"Press reports of statements from the head of the Khabarovsk Kray Administration denouncing the agreement on the eastern stretch of the border between Russia and China are of concern to us," IZVESTIYA has been told by a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official. He refrained from making a definitive assessment, citing the fact that his department does not have any accurate information on these statements by the administration head. "We are trying to corroborate the accuracy of these reports," the diplomat said.

The Foreign Ministry proceeds on the basis that the 1991 agreement is a fair agreement based on generally accepted norms of international law—specifically, on drawing the border in navigable rivers down the middle of the main channel, and in nonnavigable rivers down the middle of the river or its main branch.

The senior Foreign Ministry official asked for it to be clearly stressed that never before in history had the islands in the Amur and Ussuri Rivers been divided up between Russia and China by treaty. The specific ownership of the islands—which is, indeed the reason why feelings are running high—will be determined in the course of the border demarcation currently being carried out.

The Foreign Ministry can in no way share the administration head's indignation about the passage of Chinese ships in the Khabarovsk area. This is normal practice, the diplomat said, when foreign vessels enter our ports or internal waters.

The diplomat admitted, however, that regulations governing navigation have not yet been elaborated in line with the bilateral agreement. A Russian delegation comprising experts from different departments—including the Amur River Shipping Company—is currently holding talks with the Chinese on drawing up such regulations. Conclusion of this work will make it possible to avoid any complications or misunderstandings in the future, the diplomat said.

Border Talks With China End

LD1805082294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0752 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Vostokov]

[Text] Khabarovsk May 18 TASS—The 12-day meeting of the joint Russo-Chinese commission for the demarcation of the border was rounded off here by the signing of a joint protocol.

"We did not tackle any territorial disputes during our negotiations, but merely fixed the borderline in keeping with earlier signed Russo-Chinese treaties," ITAR-TASS was told by Genrikh Kiriyev, roving ambassador and leader of the Russian delegation. "The adopted joint protocol reflects many problems linked with demarcation. We have studied very carefully the depth of border rivers. Not all the problems have been solved and the negotiations will be continued at the next session of the joint commission."

Kiriyev noted during a press conference here that he did not deem it possible to revise separate articles of the agreement concluded with the People's Republic of China in 1991 on the eastern stretch of the Russo-Chinese border, because their revision was tantamount to the revision of all the agreement. A denunciation of the agreement is also out of the question," he stated.

Asked about the future of the Bolshoy Ussuriyskiy and Tarabarov Islands near Khabarovsk, Kiriyev stressed: "We insist firmly and persistently that these islands belong to Russia. The population of the Amur region can rest assured that nobody wants to give up the islands."

The Russian delegation included representatives from the Foreign Ministry, the chief command of the Federal Borderguard Service, the Defence Ministry, and heads of the governing bodies of the border territories and regions of the Russian Far East.

Official Says Russia Used as World's Toxic Waste Dump

LD1705213794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1120 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Mikhail Karlov]

[Text] Moscow, 17 May—While being in possession of powerful technologies and facilities for processing and recycling toxic waste, the West, nevertheless, prefers to export this waste to other countries in Africa, South America, East Europe, or the CIS, which do not have such facilities. This is not an economic move but a purposeful political action in order to save themselves from the harmful anthropogenic effects of the waste. The West sees Russia as the preferred candidate for a world garbage dump, Valeriy Timofeyev, representative of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service. said today at a meeting of the interdepartmental commission for ecological safety of the Russian Security Council.

Judging by the report made by Aleksey Poryadin, first deputy minister for the protection of environment and natural resources, there are causes for concern. Russia produces annually about 7,000 million tonnes of waste, of which only 2,000 million (28 percent) are then used in the national economy. To date, 1,600 million tonnes of toxic waste have accumulated in the country. The situation that has come about in Russia with the formation, use, de-activation, storage, and burying of waste results in irreversible damage to the natural environment and poses a real threat to the health of Russian people.

Russia already has "waste storages" that can cause ecological catastrophes, but despite this, the import of foreign toxic substances to this country continues. There is an increasingly clear tendency to conclude deals on importing and recycling dangerous waste under the guise of foreign economic projects on recycling raw materials to extract valuable substances or on giving humanitarian aid.

Political Issues

Shakhray Believes Yeltsin Will Accept Resignation

LD1705144394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1334 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Sergey Shakhray who submitted his resignation from the post of deputy prime minister to the president and prime minister has told Interfax that on Tuesday morning he met Boris Yeltsin and gave his reasons.

Asked about the president's response to Shakhray's ideas he said Yeltsin promised to think them over. Shakhray did not have reasons to believe that the resignation would not be accepted.

After resignation he is planning to concentrate on his work in the State Duma and the strengthening of local branches of his Party of Russian Unity and Accord. Shakhray is also convinced that his resignation will not have "avalanche consequences" for other members of his party in the cabinet: the Minister of Economy Aleksandr Shokhin, the Minister of Labor Gennadiy Melikyan and the Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov.

According to Shakhray, Russia is now at a crossroads, like a legendary Russian warrior having to choose one of three roads: to chaos, to transformation into a police state or to the formation of a full-fledged federation with broad rights of local government bodies. To make the last option a reality several fundamental steps should be taken.

Firstly, Shakhray thinks the president and prime minister should start playing the part of arbiters in society. Secondly, the hard core of a confederation should be formed in the framework of the CIS so that the process is not led by such extremists as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy. Thirdly, Russia should start truly protecting the rights and interests of Russians in former Soviet republics. In the fourth place, Shakhray is convinced, "basic order should be restored" and spending on the government machinery reduced. In the fifth place, crime should be resolutely combatted. In the sixth place, a common national idea should be worked out. In Shakhray's opinion this should be the idea of reviving Russia.

If the authorities remain inactive and fail to achieve political accord and resolve the problem of mutual debts in the economy, Shakhray predicts developments "according to the gloomiest script".

Here is his vision of this script. In July there will be mass strikes and unrest among work collectives, primarily in the defence industry. This, according to Shakhray, can lead to the resignation of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin in August. The situation can be such that Chernomyrdin will have to go himself in order to ease the social tension. In this case Shakhray named as possible candidates to the post the Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov, Deputy Prime- Minister Oleg Soskovets and the Chairman of the Federation of Manufacturers Yuriy Skokov.

However, Shakhray foresees great difficulties with the approval of any of these candidates by the Duma. This can lead to calls for the dissolution of the lower house of parliament. In such circumstances the Council of the Federation could become opposed to the president. As a result the situation in October could be similar to the one in October 1993.

Shakhray also thinks that Chernomyrdin can keep his cabinet unchanged only if he manages to resolve the problem of mutual debts.

He went on to say that he sympathizes with the head of government adding that he did not have any conflicts with either Chernomyrdin or Yeltsin.

Gives Reasons for Resignation

LD1705123594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1200 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Alexandrova]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—Vice-Premier Sergey Shakhray spelled out on Tuesday his reasons for resigning as Russian vice-premier, announcing a statement at a news conference at the Russian Foreign Ministry press centre, which he sent to the president and the prime minister.

"In connection with the appointment of a new minister for nationalities and regional policy, even without taking formally into account the opinion of the vice-premier in charge of the nationalities and regional policy, I request you to release me from the post of deputy prime minister," the document says.

"I'd like to hope that the appointment of a new minister is not connected with my order on financial inspection at the former state committee for the north's affairs as well as with the pressure of various groups from the Krasnodar Territory and their representatives in Moscow," Shakhray stressed.

According to Shakhray, his resignation "does not mean he would join the opposition to the president and the government and does not mean any personal offence", "although I'm also a man", he added.

He noted that his resignation points to his unwillingness to hold up to any posts. [as received]

He did not feel any resentment against the president or the government, and he would not make any opposition statements, Shakhray assured. "I hope they have no grounds to make serious reproaches against me," he said, adding that he had no conflicts either with the president or the premier. "I have not got any reprimands for the nationalities and regional policy," Shakhray underlined.

The vice-premier singled out in the statement achievements scored by his Ministry for Nationalities and Regional Policy. Firstly, the ministry ended to draft the concept of a state regional policy. [as received]

Secondly, the concept of a state policy towards Cossacks has been drafted. Thirdly, the drafting of a concept on local self-rule and and national-cultural autonomy is nearing completion.

Fourthly, a great amount of work has been done to delimit powers between members of the Russian Federation and to implement the federal treaty. The treaty with Tatarstan came into force.

The draft economic agreements and draft treaties with the Kaliningrad region, Kabardino-Balkaria and Bashkiria have been prepared. Cooperation with inter-regional economic associations has been started. The government drafted and initialled the general agreement with all the eight inter-regional economic associations.

The ministry laid foundations to normalise relations with the Chechen republic and to settle the Ossetian-Ingush conflict. "The consistent and active work with members of the federation ensured their support for the president and the government during the days of difficult political crises," Shakhray noted. He wished great success to new Minister Nikolay Yegorov.

Speaking about his deputies at the Ministry for Nationalities and Regional Policy, the ex-minister specified that Ramazan Abdulatipov left the ministry right after his election to the post of deputy speaker of the Russian parliament upper house.

Aleksandr Kontenkov will continue to work with new Minister Nikolay Yegorov. Other representatives of the party of Russian Unity and Accord (Russian abbreviation "PRES") headed by Shakhray—the ministers of economics, labour and justice will remain at their posts.

"There will be no avalache consequences of my resignation for my party colleagues," he continued. "My resignation does not change the attitude of the PRES to the president and the government.

"We shall support all their moves aimed at creating a real federation and local self-rule," he added.

Asked about his nearest political plans, Shakhray replied that he will work to consolidate his party and will devote much effort to work at the lower house.

Duma Official: Not Best Time To Dismiss Shakhray

LD1705142594 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0858 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow, 17 May (ITAR-TASS)—This is not the best time to relieve Shakhray of his post. This was the opinion expressed today in an interview with an ITAR-TASS correspondent by Konstantin Zatulin, chairman of the State Duma committee for CIS affairs.

Commenting on yesterday's report on "Russia" TV channel that Shakhray, relieved of the post of minister of affairs of nationalities and regional policy, could resign today from the post of vice-premier, Konstantin Zatulin said that according to his information Sergey Shakhray had to have a series of talks and meetings on this subject. Konstantin Zatulin believes that, in any case, it is the soveriegn right of Sergey Shakhray himself to make such a decision.

Zatulin Assails 'Rough Dismissal' of Shakhray

LD1705193594 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Deputy Chairman of the Party of Russian Unity and Concord Konstantin Zatulin regretted the form in which the last reshuffling in the government had taken place, for instance the dismissal of Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies Sergey Shakhray and appointment of Nikolay Yegorov to this post. Zatulin stated this in an interview with Interfax today.

Earlier, Shakhray had announced his resignation as the Russian Vice Premier at a briefing in Moscow explaining this by the fact that the appointment of the new minister had not been even formally discussed with him.

Zatulin (who is also Chairman of the State Duma Committee on CIS) suggested that Shakhray had been caught in a trap.

"It is no secret that the president's administration and the government are fighting between them for powers and authority. It is not by chance that the rough dismissal of Sergey Shakhray in the best traditions of the Russian bureaucracy was announced when implementation of the ideas of Shakhray and the Party of Russian Integrity and Concord started—the one on the Civic Accord Pact and on settlement of inter-ethnic relations," Zatulin pointed out.

On the question whether the positions of the party in the government would be weakened after the dismissal of Shakhray, Zatulin suggested that for the time-being any party better be outside the government than participate in it. Zatulin said his party aimed to serve Russia rather than the president or the premier.

From this point of view the party has supported the activities of Shakhray in the government which are continued by Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, Minister of Justice Yuriy Kalmykov and Labor Minister Genadiy Melikyan who are members of the Party of Russian Integrity and Concord, Zatulin stressed.

Shakhray Said Dismissed Over Credit Allocation Dispute

LD1705194894 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1800 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray sent his letter of resignation to the president today. By doing so, he expressed his disagreement with the procedure for appointing Nikolay Yegorov, the new minister for affairs of nationalities. We would like to recall that there were no consultations with Shakhray, although he as the vice premier was in charge of national issues.

However, Moscow's political circles have a different explanation on the reasons for the resignation. Of late Shakhray's department was overseeing Russia's northern regions, for whose support credits amounting to several trillion rubles were allocated. Observers believe that the true reasons for the resignation are disagreements in the Russian leadership on who will be sharing out these credits, and how this will be done.

Chechen Opposition: Shakhray Dismissal 'Great Mistake'

LD1705133294 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1309 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The dismissal of Deputy Prime Minister Sergey Shakhray from the post of minister for nationalities and regional policies is a "great mistake of the Russian leadership," Interfax was told Tuesday by the leader of the Chechen opposition Umar Avtunkhanov. He said that Shakhray was the only person in the Russian leadership who knew the situation in the regions, for example, in the North Caucasus.

Until the last day in power Shakhray headed the Russian delegation at the talks with Chechnya.

Avturkhanov believes that Shakhray's dismissal was done by the middle echelons of power in Russia, who are connected with President Dzhokhar Dudayev through oil products and arms.

Shakhray was dismissed at the moment when Russia developed a more or less concrete position concerning the ethnic policies, for example, concerning the settlement of relations with Chechnya, said Avturkhanov.

Meanwhile, the official Groznyy welcomed with satisfaction Shakhray's resignation. In an interview with Interfax, the Chechen president's aide Soltmurat Alazov said that this should have taken place long ago.

The man whose unseemly role is vividly seen in the Ossetian-Ingushi conflict, could not occupy the post of minister for nationalities and regional policies for very long, said the aide.

Chechen Speaker Warns of Post-Shakhray Policy Change

LD1705194494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Chechen parliament's Speaker Akhyad Idigov did not rule out that after the dismissal of Sergey Shakhray from the post of the Russian Minister for Nationalities and Regional Policies the policy of Russia towards Chechnya could toughen. Idigov said in an interview with Interfax today that he saw no connection between the dismissal of Shakhray and his tough position to Chechnya.

"This policy is being defined either by more high-ranking officials or by the Russian legislative institutions," Idigov stated having concluded that the policy of Russia towards Chechnya could not be altered much after the dismissal of one politician.

"If the Russian leadership wanted to alter its policy it would do this even without consulting Shakhray," Idigov suggested.

"It is likely that his policy has just come to a deadlock and it was high time to dismiss him," Idigov concluded.

No Details Reported on Yeltsin-Shakhray Meeting

LD1705210494 Moscow 2x2 Television in Russian 1940 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Anatoliy Krasikov, the head of the Russian president's press service, informed a correspondent of the POSTFACTUM agency today that at 1730 the press service did not have any information regarding Boris Yeltsin's acceptance of Sergey Shakhray's resignation from the post of the deputy prime minister.

Krasikov also confirmed information that today the president and Sergey Shakhray had a meeting. However, for the time being the head of the presidential press service did not report details of this meeting.

International Conference on Civil Legislation Opens

LD1705143594 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1345 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—"The difficult arguments on property, land and taxes, occurring ever more frequently among the parties to market relations in Russia, bring to light all the merits and still large demerits of our civil law," Chairman of the Russian Supreme Court of Arbitration Veniamin Yakovlev told the international conference on civil legislation, which opened here today.

Yakovlev expressed the hope that this meeting would "help establish truly democratic laws for the everyday life of our democratic society". The conference was organised by the Institute of Law and Comparative Jurisprudence under the Russian Government, jointly with the Supreme Court of Arbitation. It is being attended by members of the private law centre under the Russian president, jurists, economists, and businessmen from the CIS countries and other foreign states.

The 1964 civil code of the Russian Soviet Federative Socialist Republic, which is now in force, was drawn up to service the administrative-command system and, of course, does not guarantee contractual freedom in the new economic conditions, the speakers noted. Moreover, it legalises the inequality of the forms of ownership, giving preference to state-owned property.

The adoption of the new Russian civil code must be accelerated to ensure legal backing to the market economy. The parliamentary hearings on its draft, to which the participants of the conference were invited, will be held at the State Duma building on May 19. The civil code must be "a fundamental law, laying down the overall legal principles of market relationships in the country".

The private law, which is now being revived in Russia, must protect the people's ownership rights, including the right to the results of intellectual labour, must regulate relations among people, based on equality. Several such laws are already in force, including the laws on privatisation, business transactions, banks, investments, competition, restriction of monopolism, copyrights and attendant rights. Laws have also been adopted to protect the rights of consumers, to guarantee the free movement of citizens, and the freedom of the mass media. However, they do not regulate all the spheres of the market economy and all the relationships between the civilian society and the private life of citizens.

The conference participants plan to address recommendations, linked with the elaboration of the Russian civil legislation, to the Federal Assembly (parliament) of Russia and to the parliaments of other CIS states.

Yeltsin Aide on National Accord, Opposition

LD1705165394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1441 GMT 17 May 94

[From the "Presidential Bulletin" feature: compiled by Nikolay Zherebtsov and Andrey Petrovskiy; edited by Vladimir Shishlin]

[Text] An aide of the Russian president, Georgy Satarov, has granted an exclusive interview to Vyacheslav Terekhov of Interfax [IF].

IF: Does it not seem to you that the abundance of organizations signing the Pact on National Accord as well as the nature of some of them (athletic, children's) diminish the political weight of the document?

SATAROV: I do not think so. One of the purposes of the pact was to promote the strengthening of a civic society through involving public institutions in the conciliatory mechanisms provided for by the document. Through these mechanisms public organizations can discuss their problems and work out recommendations which allows them to influence the government increasing the status, the weight of these organizations. Taken together they form institutions of a civic society confidence in which is a necessary element of democracy.

IF: In other words: the more, the better. Do you think the number of signatories makes the accord stronger?

SATAROV: Yes, because the nearest task is to invite all these organizations to round-table meetings to resolve concrete matters. These round-tables should not be formed only of government representatives.

IF: Can you sum up any results of signing the pact?

SATAROV: It is too early to speak of results. I would compare that to asking about the results of family life after wedding. The main thing is that people live together, have children and raise them. Still no one is cancelling the wedding ritual, and the attitude to it is more or less serious. In this case we can speak of a similar ritual.

It is not over, of course, as there is a big group willing to join the pact: associations of workers of culture, science and the media as well as major manufacturing amalgamations and employers, a big number of parties and organizing committees of parties. The process of signing will not be closed after they join, though it will evidently become less pompous. Still if new parties appear and wish to join the pact in, say, six months, they will be given the chance to do that.

IF: The irreconcilable opposition has recovered from its shock last October and made a number of harsh verbal attacks on the regime. Do you think that these attacks launched by judicial bodies is an attempt of the authorities to remind their opponents that if they continue their radical line, they are going to land in prison again?

SATAROV: No. In this case there is only one consideration: the need to observe acting legislation.

IF Note: The office of the Moscow Prosecutor has started checking the unlawful actions that took place during an opposition rally in Lubyanskaya Ploshchad in Moscow on May 9. Investigators are studying video-tapes of the rally and procession. The former Vice-President Aleksandr Rutskoy, the leader of Working Russia Viktor Anpilov, the head of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov and others have been invited to the office to offer explanations. IF: The law prohibits calls for overthrowing the regime by force. However, when Aleksandr Rutskoy spoke of celebrating the 50th anniversary of V-E Day under a different regime, he did not mention armed struggle.

SATAROV: There were also other speeches. For example, calls were made to the army, the security forces and so on. I would want to remind you that immediately after the amnesty on February 23 the chairman of the Duma Ivan Rybkin made a statement imposing certain obligations on the amnestied. It did not mean the restriction of political activities as such, but they should be within the framework of law.

IF: You mean that calls for changing the system or president are part of normal political life?

SATAROV: Yes. They were made earlier too.

IF: Let us imagine an impossible situation that someone of the "irreconcilables" wishes to join the pact. What will the presidential team do? SATAROV: The question is within the competence of the conciliatory commission of the pact that is to be set up in the nearest future.

IF: In other words will they be able to sign the document, if they wish?

SATAROV: Theoretically speaking, yes. Why not?

Yeltsin Staff Sets Up Debate on Funding Institutions

PM1705092794 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 May 94 First Edition p 1

[Unattributed report: "Final Document Discussed"]

[Text] A working conference on state support for the institutions of a civil society organized by the Russian president's staff has completed its work near Moscow. The Russian president's Operational Information Center announced that the participants discussed the working conference's final document, prepared using material from the previous two days' sessions.

The final document covers interconnected blocs of legislation governing the relationship between citizens and the state in spheres like the economy, the social program, the electoral system, information policy, and the system creating the legal foundations for the activity of a civil society.

Shumeyko, Yeltsin Discuss Opposition Demonstrations

PM1805095794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 18 May 94 pp 1-2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "May Demonstrations by Intransigent Opposition Have Shaken Authorities"]

[Text] The so-called "working people's May demonstrations," which ended with the burning of a Russian flag and calls by A. Rutskoy and his associates to overthrow the present "police" regime before the 50th anniversary of Victory Day, have not passed unnoticed in the Kremlin. V. Shumeyko, speaker of the upper chamber of parliament, came to see President B. Yeltsin about this incident 17 May, and he was closely followed by Premier V. Chernomyrdin.

V. Shumeyko told your IZVESTIYA correspondent that during their discussion about the problem of ensuring stability in society, opinion had been unanimous: Any actions by intransigent elements that violate Russian Federation laws and the Russian Federation Constitution must be stopped. For example, with regard to the burning of the national flag: Video footage showed specific individuals, and the Prosecutor's Office should initiate criminal proceedings immediately. The same applies to A. Rutskoy's appeals. Extremely gross violations of the Constitution and Russian laws are plainly evident, and these cannot be allowed to occur without some sort of reaction from the authorities.

Of course, the problem of meeting the commitments agreed under the Treaty of Accord was also discussed, V. Shumeyko said. At issue are the principles of establishing an observer commission to implement this document. Unless both chambers of parliament take part in forming the commission, the operation will be impossible. It is most likely that the commission will include representatives of the most influential and largest political forces. The commission chairman, I think, should be a politically neutral person who is prepared to accept proposals from any political group. Academician Topornin figures in this list, but I would not like to deflect him from his business in the Public Chamber, V. Shumeyko stressed.

Shumeyko Expresses Support for Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin

LD1805104894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1014 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 22 TASS—Speaker of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko believes the resignation of Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin "is extremely undesirable in the current situation".

He told reporters on Wednesday that "Russia was lucky that Chernomyrdin became the head of government".

On Tuesday leader of the Party of Russian Unity and Accord Sergey Shakhray predicted that Chernomyrdin may resign in August if urgent measures are not taken to improve the economic situation.

But Shumeyko doubts that Chernomyrdin would resign. He characterised him as "a fighter".

Despite his serious contradictions with Economics Minister Aleksandr Shokhin, Shumeyko believes that the latter should remain in the government. "Such a highly-skilled professional as Aleksandr Shokhin should work in the government", he said.

The speaker also welcomed the appointment to the government of Nikolay Travkin who used to work as a head of a district in the Moscow region. "It is necessary to gather the experience of every Russian region", he commented.

Shumeyko believes that the dismissal of Shakhray as the nationalities minister would hardly trigger new conflicts in Russia. "The number of interethnic conflicts will not change after Sergey Shakhray left the government", he said.

The speaker also played down fears caused by Shakhray's predictions that a new stand-off of authorities, worse than the one which took place last October, is in store for Russia in August. He said such forecasts have been made each spring and autumn. "A normal way out can be found from even the most difficult situation", he stressed.

Shumeyko does not believe it necessary to introduce a state of economoic emergency in the country, but called to pay more attention to the military-industrial and the agricultural complexes which suffer a lot in the course of reforms.

Speaking on his relations with the president, Shumeyko stressed that he "supported and would support Boris Yeltsin as a reformer".

Chernomyrdin Stresses Improving Executive Discipline

LD1705195494 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1804 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Moscow, 17 May (ITAR-TASS)—Government Chairman Viktor Chernomyrdin today assembled a large conference of the heads of the machinery of government and its structural subdivisions on the results of his working meeting with the president of the Russian Federation. This was announced by the government's press service.

The conference was attended by deputy chairmen of the government and the heads of a number of ministries in the economic field. Serious criticisms were made of the staff's style and methods of work, the level of control over the implementation of the decisions accepted, and the time taken for documents submitted to the staff to be considered.

Viktor Chernomyrdin told the heads of the apparat's structural subdivisions to adopt exhaustive measures to raise the level of executive discipline and gave a tough indication of the heads' personal responsibility for the conduct of reform and the implementation of concrete measures to stabilize the finances and the economy, the government press service announcement says.

Rutskoy Summoned to Moscow Prosecutor's Office

LD1705201894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The former vice-president Aleksandr Rutskoy was summoned to the office of the Moscow Prosecutor on Thursday. This was reported to Interfax by a member of the Duma and the leader of the People's Party of Free Russia Vasiliy Lipitskiy.

The office of the Prosecutor General has given instructions to the Moscow Prosecutor to check the lawfulness of a number of statements and calls by opposition leaders during mass actions on May 9 in Moscow, including calls to destroy the current regime, and to evaluate the burning of the Russian flag in public.

Other summons have been sent to the leader of Working Russia Victor Anpilov, the head of the National Salvation Front Ilya Konstantinov who together with Rutskoy were released from jail last February under an amnesty of the Duma.

Two Explosions Reported in Downtown Moscow

LD1705113494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1110 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Larisa Kislinskaya]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—One of two blasts ripped the air in downtown Moscow where a joint stock society of the closed type was located.

ITAR-TASS learnt at the Moscow Chief Militia Department that an explosive device without a shell went off due to careless handling. The society's driver brought it to the office due to some reasons.

He received several lacerated wounds, and both his hands were torn away. He soon died from the loss of blood. Militia found two cartridges, two electric detonators and two radio transmitters at the place of accident. The blast was so powerful that the society's door was blown out, and all glass was shattered at the house entrance foyer.

The second explosion sounded in Moscow's suburb (2, Varshavskoye highway). An explosive device was planted into a Lada car which belonged to the managing director of the Grigori-91 firm. Luckily, there were no casualties. Only the Lada car and nearby Zaporozhets car were damaged. Windows were shattered at a house.

Investigation was started in both cases.

Civil Aviation Pilots Launch General Strike 18 May

LD1805060994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0548 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow May 18—Russian civil aviation pilots went on general strike at 9:00 A.M. Moscow time today. The personnel of over 90 per cent of civil aviation enterprises from all over Russia, beginning from Kaliningrad in the extreme west of Russia to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk in the Far East, have confirmed their intention to participate in the strike, ITAR-TASS learned from the strike headquarters.

The protest action began on Tuesday when Moscow pilots staged pickets outside the building of the State Duma. The strikers hope to make the government meet their demands which were formulated in a package of documents which had been submitted to the government for consideration in February.

President of the trade union of Russian Pilots, Alfred Malinovsky, told ITAR-TASS that they suggest lifting unjustified tariffs for transportation imposed on civil aviation and introducing an efficient system of non-cash payments. He pointed out that it is important to create an employment fund for the aviation personnel to promote that experienced pilots remain on staff of civil aviation enterprises, at present, around 7,000-8,000 experienced pilots aged from 27 to 37 are facing redundancies, Malinovsky said.

Among other demands pilots propose to introduce a new aviation code to meet international rules, ensure the safety of flights, normal pensions for pilots and their social insurance.

"All these problems are quite solvable and part of them might be resolved within a few months. However, the problem of pensions should be settled until May 18. Since it requires no particular modifications in the legislature or additional funds. But despite all our efforts, the authorities declined to open a dialogue with us to discuss our demands," Malinovsky said.

Pilots engaged in sanitary aviation, air search teams and some other kinds of civil aviation are not taking part in the strike.

Support of Pilots' Strike Not Widespread

LD1805091094 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0820 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Viktor Petrenko]

[Text] Moscow, 18 May (ITAR-TASS)—Not all flight crews are supporting the nationwide strike called for today by the Russian pilots' union. Services are continuing on many routes, above all those operated out of the capital's airports.

Nevertheless, as the public relations department of the Russian Federation Ministry of Transport told ITAR-TASS, departures have been cancelled or delayed in a number of cities. In Ufa, for instance, nine flights were cancelled, and two in St. Petersburg.

Meanwhile, the office of Russia's procurator-general has filed suit against the pilots' union, calling for the strike to be declared illegal. The case will be heard today.

Counterintelligence Chief on Rule in N. Ossetia

LD1705152394 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Chief of the Federal Counterintelligence Service (FSK) Sergey Stepashin in an interview with Interfax on Tuesday said he was opposed to the imposition of federal rule in North Ossetia's Prigorodny Region, which is at the center of a dispute between the Ossetian and Ingush communities. He described special rule as a form of territorial claim.

Stepashin said the misguided article six of the law rehabilitating the deported people which provides for territory changes had ignited the whole of the Northern Caucausus. While the introduction of special rule in Prigorodny Region could blow up the whole of Russia, he said. "We have already gone through this in Nagorno-Karabakh," he added.

The FSK chief believes the parliament must ban any attempt to redraw borders and prevent all announcing of territorial claims.

Pointing to what he called Chechnya's "visible and invisible" presence in any region of the Northern Caucausus, Stepashin said that Chechen leader Johar Dudayev stood to benefit from the conflict between Ossetia and Ingushetia whether maintaining the role of a potential peacemaker or directly involving itself in the conflict.

Stepashin said his agency was capable of improving the situation in Chechnya itself by ensuring the safety of railway trains which come under attack there. One way of resolving the problem is to replace ordinary trains for armored ones accompanied by military escorts, he said.

Stepashin said that different states including Turkey and the U.S. had begun to consider the region as an area of their vital interests over the years of regional instability. "Their intelligence services employ military and trade emissaries, professional agents and foreign nationals to carry out espionage in the region," he said. "The FSK is planning a series of operations to try to root out these practices," Stepashin said. He stressed that FSK activity in the Northern Caucausus would become part of government policies given the crisis situation there.

Deputies Polled on Leaders' Popularity, West

MK1705121094 Moscow MOSKOVSKIY KOMSOMOLETS in Russian 15 May 94 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Parliament Polls by 'Opinion' Service (Headed by G. Pashkov): Russian Federation State Duma Deputies on Domestic Policy"]

[Text] The questionnaire was answered by 211 deputies (61.1 percent) representing all parliamentary factions.

As Russia develops, should it be trying to catch up with Western countries, or should it follow its own road?

	State Duma/94	Moscow/94 *
Should be catching up	21.6	12.5
Should follow own road	69.1	68.8
Hard to say	0.5	11.5
Other answers	8.8	7.2

Which is better: should they resign or continue at their post?

	Resign	Continue	Don't know
Viktor Yerin	66.8	22.3	10.9
Pavel Grachev	58.8	28.4	12.8
Andrey Kozyrev	57.4	35.4	7.2
Anatoliy Chubays	55.6	36.7	7.7
Boris Yeltsin	47.0	47.0	6.0
Viktor Gerashchenko	44.6	45.1	10.3
Viktor Chernomyrdin	35.8	51.8	12.4

Do you agree or disagree with the proposition: "Vouchers are a giant con trick for cheating average citizens"?

	State Duma/94	Moscow/94	Moscow/93	Moscow/92
Agree	65.7	78.4	78.2	71.7
Disagree	34.3	21.6	21.8	28.3

* Moscow Polls of the "Opinion" Service: 1,100 respondents in telephone interviews

Economic Issues

Russia's Debt Payments Greater Than USSR's

LD1705123094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1136 GMT 17 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Gennadiy Yezhov]

[Text] Moscow May 17 TASS—The amount of annual payments made by Russia for servicing its external debt exceeds that paid by the former Soviet Union to its foreign creditors. The Russian Government has had to stop the issue of state guarantees to the Western creditors who fund joint projects in Russia, Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin, who is also economics minister, announced at a press conference today.

The vice premier stressed that enterprises wishing to obtain centralised credits, including from the package of Western financial assistance to Russian market reforms will from now on have to decide what property—land, buildings or securities—they can mortgage in case their project turns out to be loss-making.

As concerns the insolvent debtors, under whose obligations the Russian Government now has to pay in accordance with the country's foreign commitments, the Cabinet of Ministers is now working on a scheme of making them pay federal authorities, including through the court of arbitration, Shokhin said.

Shokhin Explains Nonattendance of Paris Club Meeting

LD1705213094

[Editorial Report] Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 17 May carries a three-minute report on a news conference given by Russian Economy Minister Aleksandr Shokhin.

The correspondent says that Russia has declined an invitation to take part in a meeting of the Paris Club of the country's creditors on 2-3 June. The correspondent reports that at a news conference on 17 May, Shokhin said that he considered the recent granting of credit by the IMF as sufficient reason for concluding a new agreement with the Paris Club. In a recording, Shokhin says that two weeks would not be sufficient time to work out repayment proposals based on Russia's budget.

Shokhin says: "It is necessary to hold preliminary consultations with the members of the Paris Club so that the meeting, itself, should produce results. We do not yet have the basic concept for restructuring the 1994 payments and we are simply physically unable to draw up this concept by 2-3 June. And for this reason we have asked for the meeting to be held in mid-June."

Shokhin concludes by saying that the important thing is for a realistic repayment figure to be reached.

Central Bank in 'Sharp' Talks on Fedorov Proposals

MK1705135894 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Report by Yelena Chepkasova and Ivan Zasurskiy in the "Presentation" column: "Boris Fedorov Proposes Making the Bank of Russia A Locomotive Of Reform. The Central Bank Does Not Care for the Monetarist Bill"]

[Text] Yesterday an enlarged session of the Central Bank's subcommittee on money and credit policy discussed a draft law presented by Boris Fedorov: On the Central Bank of the Russian Federation. The session was attended by ex-Finance Minister Boris Fedorov, now chairman of the [State Duma] subcommittee on the Central Bank; Aleksandr Khandruyev, deputy chairman of the Central Bank; and representatives of commercial banks and the Moscow Interregional Currency Exchange.

Although the discussion of the draft law was not in the confrontational spirit of old, it was interrupted by some rather sharp interventions by representatives of the legislative and monetary "power branches."

At the session, the draft law on the Central Bank was disseminated, whose basic provisions are contained in Articles 19, 20, 75, 79, and 122.

In particular Article 19 resurrects the Central Bank from the ashes of former battles as a powerful phoenix: "Legislative and executive bodies may not interfere in the activity of the Bank of Russia in exercising its powers enshrined in laws or make decisions which hinder the Bank of Russia's activity. In the event of an intervention attempt, the Bank of Russia shall ignore the illegal injunctions and advise the State Duma."

Boris Fedorov's draft provides only for "a week-long freeze" on Central Bank decisions on matters pertaining to its powers, and this prerogative is concentrated in the hands of the finance minister who may (Article 20) suspend Central Bank decisions for this period of time.

Viewed from the angle of political practice, these decisions show that Boris Fedorov has not lost the hope of becoming head of an independent Central Bank, while for the Finance Ministry loss of power is to be offset by the possibility of deriving a profit from collaboration with commercial structures. Incidentally, Fedorov sees the president's position as a source for his hopes to get "Gerashchenko's scalp": Article 122 proposes a new procedure for appointing and dismissing the Central Bank chief. As of now the Russian president will have an overriding power (while the State Duma will be able to make such decisions in a limited enumeration of cases)

Articles 75 and 79 of the draft are of major importance. Thus, Article 75 empowers the Central Bank to license all currency operations by "banks and other credit institutions," including the import and export of capital. Article 79 strips commercial banks of the right to commercial secrets (insurance companies, investment funds and companies, in full; and brokerage firms, their associations, and regulating bodies, partially) if the Central Bank demands relevant data from them. The same article, however, obligates the Central Bank not to pass on such information to anybody else.

On the whole, the draft law proposes that the Central Bank be used as a locomotive of monetarist economic reform, with Fedorov's Central Bank model being closest to Latvia's. There they have a president of the Bank of Latvia, Eynars Repshe; the lat stands at $1.50; and industry is winding up the production of RAF minivans.

Military Issues

Reportage on Pacific Fleet Ammunition Dump Explosion

Investigation Indicates Negligence To Blame

LD1805075394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0735 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Vladivostok May 18 TASS—An investigation into the explosion at aviation ammunition depots of the Pacific Fleet showed that the explosion was caused by outrageous negligence and lax discipline of the guards.

The explosion occurred 100 kilometers off Vladivostok at 16:00 local time. A fire broke out which caused other explosions with unexploded shells scattered within the range of over 10 kilometers. The fire reduced to rubble 200 out of 800 wagons with ammunition, a service room for the guards, soldiers' barracks and other constructions and partially damaged the railway. It was only on Sunday that the fire was extinguished. Luckily, there were no casualties among the guards and the personnel of the ammunition depot.

According to preliminary estimates made by experts, civilian constructions in nearby settlements of Novonezhino and Romanovka were out of reach of fragments of shells scattered by the explosion. Later, numerous damages of buildings and economic facilities were detected. Over 2,000 people were evacuated from the villages of Novonezhino, Romanovka, Smolyaninovo. A total of 22 civilians who were injured by broken glass smashed out by the explosion applied for medical aid.

Conter-intelligence officers of the Pacific Fleet established that one of the soldiers on guard, after his shift was over, found an electric igniter of a gun-powder rocket accelerator and began to disassemble it with a knife. The knife set the gun-powder accelerator on fire and the soldier threw it into the bushes, setting dry grass on fire. Rocket shells piled up nearby caught fire and several minutes later an explosion occurred.

The soldier and his teammate who was nearby escaped from the scene of the explosion without notifying the command about the accident.

The military prosecutor's office of the garrison has instituted criminal proceedings. An investigation into the explosion continues.

Sabotage Suspected in Explosion

LD1805051294 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0400 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Last evening a man was arrested as a suspect in the explosion of the Pacific Fleet Air Force ammunition dump. The suspect is a member of the garrison who was acting for mercenary motives; this according to an

ITAR-TASS correspondent who received this information from a source in the Pacific Fleet.

According to another version filed by ITAR-TASS, the explosion was caused by the carelessness of those guarding the dump.

Officials Quell Sabotage Motive

LD1805053494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0506 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Yuriy Grachev]

[Text] Vladivostok May 18—The Pacific Fleet ammunition storage facility exploded on May 14 because of irresponsibility and negligence in guarding the facility, the local counterintelligence service reported, denying earlier rumours about an alleged act of subversion and the arrest of a suspect whose actions were motivated by pecuniary interests, and search for an accomplice.

According to Pacific Fleet counter-intelligence sources, a guard off duty found a discarded electric device, part of a rocket acceleration unit which incorporates a gunpowder charge, left unattended on the premises. He took the thing up an began to dismantle it with the help of a penknife, with another guard off duty watching him do it. The knight slipped and struck the charge which ignited on impact. The first guard hurled the burning unit aside where last year grass caught the fire at once, setting aflame a stack of jet shells.

The frightened soldiers fled from the scene without doing anything to extinguish the fire or notifying the unit commander of the incident. The first explosion followed within minutes.

The military prosecutor of the garrison has instituted criminal proceedings and the investigation continues.

Novonezhino Explosions Still Unexplained

PM1705135794 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Natalya Ostrovskaya report: "Bombs Exploding in the Maritime Kray Again. But the Explosions Two Years Ago Have Still Not Been Investigated"]

[Text] Vladivostok—The Maritime Kray marked the second anniversary of the notorious explosions at the Pacific Fleet arsenal in Vladivostok (14 May 1992) with a far more powerful "salute" at the Pacific Fleet air forces central air weapons dump, which is 100 km from the city, near the settlement of Novonezhino.

On precisely 14 May, at approximately 1500 hours local time, there were reports from the dump that a fire had started, that the guard was unable to handle it alone. Some minutes later there were explosions—a first, followed by a second.... According to witnesses, and there were plenty of them, since an electric train from Vladivostok was pulling in to Novonezhino, the third explosion was the biggest. According to Maritime Kray governor Yevgeniy Nazdratenko, appearing on local television the next day, the explosion at the Pacific Fleet dump was equivalent to that of an atom bomb. At any rate, Vladivostok was rocked, as if a small earthquake had occurred: Windows shook and the inhabitants of housing developments in Tikhaya Bay and Russkiy island felt their floors vibrate.

It made a big impression on 66 children from Tokyo on holiday at the "Okean" children's camp. It is on the opposite shore of Ussuriyskiy Bay from where the incident occurred. The shock wave from the explosion blew out all the windows in the central complex, where the young Japanese were at the time. But the guests kept their heads, spilled out onto the street, and organized... a disco.

The inhabitants of Novonezhino and other settlements within a radius of six-eight km from the exploding dump—Anisimovka, Romanovka, Smolyaninovo, and nearby garrisons and way stations—were clearly not in a dancing mood. Some 2,000 people from Novonezhino, mainly women and children from officers' families, were evacuated by electric train during the explosions, as chunks and fragments of metal whistled by over distances of kilometers. Every minute counted, since the track, embankment, and contact rails were soon broken or wrecked.

What can you say about the "theater of combat actions," when, according to information confirmed by the kray civil defense staff, several very long-range projectiles flew from the site of the explosion as far as the city of Bolshoy Kamen—home, as is known, of the "Zvezda" defense plant, which now specializes in dismantling submarines with nuclear reactors.

As on 14 May, a black day for the Maritime Kray, so today, when these lines are being written, there is no information on the victims of the tragedy. There is every reason to believe that the future holds the key, as in the case of the affair of two years ago. For instance, the latest victim of the previous explosions at the Pacific Fleet arsenal was a Vladivostok boy who found a shell two weeks ago. And his was by no means the only death. The casualty radius of accidental explosions in the Pacific Fleet's undeclared war on its own territory against itself and its own civilian population is great not so much in spatial terms as in terms of time.

We have been told that no one in the military or in the civilian population was particularly badly affected. There are, though, instances of trivial injuries: Cuts and lacerations and bruises—no more than that. On Sunday 15 May, thank goodness, the rain came right on time, the fire was doused, and, as the kray leadership reported on the radio, the danger of further explosions passed and it was decided to people should return to their homes. Arond 3,000 people had been evacuated in all.

It was also announced that the Pacific Fleet air forces central air weapons dump contained only weapons with powder charges (around 5,000 aerial bombs, guided and unguided missiles, 800 truckloads of pyrotechnics, and an amount of TNT in the dump stores equivalent to two nuclear warheads). It was stated that there were no chemical, bacteriological, or nuclear weapons there.

But there is no dump any more following the disaster. The extent of the devastation is such that the facility cannot be resurrected. As it happens, it also contained ammunition made in 1937, long out of date. What the military had failed to do on schedule has been achieved by accident.

As for the reasons for the fire at the central dump, so far silence. The investigation of the incident is in the hands of the Maritime Kray Administration of the Federal Counterintelligence Service. But we already know the two main versions of the incident. The first comes from a Pacific Fleet spokesman, and what it boils down to is the traditional spring taiga fires. Apparently, there was a gale on 14 May, which spread the fire to the territory of the protected facility.

This version is totally rejected by governor Nazdratenko. According to his information, fire originally broke out not on the outskirts, but in the center of the dump. It was there that the first explosion occurred. Perhaps someone wanted it to happen? Incidentally, local people have their own "domestic" version concerning a unit commander arrested recently for trading in weapons. So now the tracks had to be covered.... Incidentally, the latest major theft of weapons from Pacific Fleet dumps took place actually in the vicinity of Novonezhino.

What the competent bodies are going to say about the tragedy and whether they will say anything at all is the big question. The experience of the investigation of the explosions that occurred the year before last at the Pacific Fleet arsenal in Vladivostok suggests that it is not just a unit commander who is covering tracks. In fact, no one has yet been properly called to account for the sudden combat actions on the streets of Vladivostok on 14 May 1992; the investigation into the incident is still not complete.

Witnesses Say Dump Deliberately Blown Up

PM1705142794 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Sergey Avdeyev report: "Terrible Mushroom Grows in Maritime Kray Taiga"]

[Text] The devil is evidently laying his hands on military arsenals: Ammunition dumps of the Red-Banner Pacific Fleet have blown up once again. The memorable Vladivostok explosion of two years ago now looks like child's play—on Saturday 14 May the major arsenal of the fleet's air force thundered forth in Maritime Kray. This was the equivalent of the blast from a five-kilotonne atom bomb.

The mushroom that grew near the village of Novonezhino was very similar to the familiar silhouette in textbooks on nuclear security—the height of a substantial hill, black and crimson, it terrified the local inhabitants. It was a sunny day, and people were digging in truck gardens. The shock wave bowled them all over. They got up and ran to the houses. A second, mightier blast caught them 40 seconds later. After the third one they could enter the houses from any side: They had neither windows nor doors, indeed some people had no walls left either.

Panic set in. For some reason mothers began pushing their children under the beds. Grandmothers shouted "It's war!" and started praying. Cats went crazy, dogs howled. A sickening, acrid smell of burning hung in the air....

There were not, however, any nuclear or chemical charges in this arsenal. Aerial bombs, missiles, and shells, brought here from the Baltic region, were exploding. The dumps were very well guarded, and the military took pride in them. The arsenal was also located well from the safety viewpoint: The villages were quite a long way off and were protected by hills. This saved the inhabitants. So far there has not been a single casualty. The fire was extinguished by the next morning. Sappers, militia, and counterintelligence officers are working there now.

From KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA's File

Free-flight rocket—based on tanks, aircraft, and ships. Range—10-15 km. Explodes on impact by self-detonation.

Antitank guided missile—based on aircraft, ships, and infantry fighting vehicles. Equipped with self-destruct device. Self-detonated, could hit chance target, i.e. function in line with combat launch. Range—20-25 km.

The evacuation of people was organized professionally. The military, the authorities, and the militia secured a lot of buses amazingly promptly and evacuated five villages: Smolyaninovo, Romanovka, Novonezhino, and two small farmstead-railroad halts. All the locals had long known from the military that if THAT blew up, everything would be destroyed for 30 km around. So they evacuated people beyond the 30km zone—to Shkotovo and Bolshoy Kamen.

Fortunately it was not the entire arsenal that blew up. But even what did was enough to cause a minor earthquake. Windows were broken even in buildings in Vladivostok and in blocks at the "Okean" children's camp, which are a good 50 km away as the crow flies. There is scarcely a single building in the villages that did not suffer.

A Vladivostok-Partizansk electric train was approaching the "Kilometer 53" halt at the moment of the first explosion. When the engineer caught sight of the mushroom from the explosion, he stopped braking and took the train through the falling debris to the next station. A couple of minutes later the railroad was at a standstill—the contact wires had been broken, and debris and blocks were falling right onto the permanent way.

"Not many people in the village were injured," Divisional Militia Captain Viktor Bityuk said. "Some were hit by bricks from a falling chimney, some were cut by broken glass, and some did not open their mouths or put their hands over their ears in time and now cannot hear."

On that day Viktor himself had only just finished his shift and was getting ready for bed. Now it is 48 hours since he slept. He was leading people out of their yards, and they were stopping vehicles on the road until the buses arrived....

"Imagine, there was not a single instance of a private driver's refusing to take people in his vehicle further away from the blast," he said in surprise. "On the contrary, there were volunteers who offered their help and first-aid kits. They released the sailors locked up in the garrison guardhouse and made them help me. I set them to guarding stores and the savings bank. Believe me, there was not a single robbery!"

Just one case of looting has been recorded so far. Fish protection inspector Vladimir Snurnik was leading people from a danger zone by the river while his own village of Romanovka was being evacuated. He found himself nearby and called at his home. Everything there had been turned upside down, and the safe had been opened. They had evidently been looking for his pistol, which he had with him at the time.

Weapons, incidentally, have always drawn thieves and bandits of various kinds to the arsenal. The small arms of all the nearby military units were kept there. Last year a major robbery occurred, for which a unit commander and six of his accomplices were arrested. The investigation also links the present disaster to the problem of weapons thefts.

Almost everyone is certain that this was no chance ignition. There are eyewitnesses who say that the first fire broke out right in the middle of one of the dumps. Rockets at once flew in various directions and started a fire right around the perimeter of the huge arsenal.

Admiral Igor Kasatonov, first deputy commander in chief of the Navy, who has arrived in Maritime Kray with a group of experts, is still very cautious in his assessments of the cause of what happened. He has said just one thing unequivocally: The destruction is colossal, such as I have never seen before in my life.

...A friend and I were once collecting ferns in these places. There were so many of them on the slopes of the hills that we could pick them without straightening up. These hills that are turning green are now strewn equally thickly with unexploded shells and debris. I walked with Anatoliy Panteleyevich Shevchenko, head of Smolyaninovo Administration, through the streets of the deserted settlement. There was still intermittent rumbling, and he showed me which hill had taken the most terrible blow and which one had saved 100-year-old Romanovka, which has lived through two wars and now, so it turns out, also a third one.

"Where can I find that much window glass now?" the head grieved, looking at the gaping windows.

Yes, we will all need a lot more window glass. This Pacific Fleet arsenal is not the last one....

Nuclear Blast Said Due to 'Unstable' Workers

LD1705210894 Moscow Radio Moscow in Russian to Tajikistan 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[From the "Slavyanka" program of the Russian Defense Ministry]

[Text] A difficult situation has arisen among Russian nuclear workers. This was confirmed by last week's explosion in Snezhinsk nuclear center in the Urals [on 13 May] that injured two of the center's workers. In the opinion of the center's leadership, the incident was caused by the unstable psychological state of the creators of Russia's nuclear weapons. This is occurring because of the extremely tense situation that has arisen in the sector.

The state's debts to the Urals' nuclear workers are now approaching 30 billion rubles. This has virtually caused nuclear research to come to a halt. The leaders of the federal nuclear center have again called on the country's government to change their attitude to the nuclear complex.

Kasatonov: Black Sea Fleet Will Remain Russian

LD1705141094 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1139 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Talking to the Black Sea Fleet's veterans in Moscow, the First Deputy Commander of the Russian Navy Admiral Igor Kasatonov said the Russians were the predominant force in Crimea and the Black Sea Fleet had been and would remain Russian. The Black Sea Fleet was an integral fighting unit of the Russian Navy, Kasatonov said.

According to Kasatonov, the most difficult stage in the efforts to decide the Fleet's fate was over. Negotiations were underway, he said, and moves were being made to find political solutions to the remaining problems.

Before the breakup of the Soviet Union, Kasatonov said, the Black Sea Fleet enjoyed, with support from the Rumanian [Romanian] and Bulgarian Navies, superiority in both the Black and Mediterranean Seas. It was also supported by submarines of the Northern Fleet, he said.

According to Kasatonov, three quarters of the Black Sea coast had been working to protect the southern borders of the Soviet Union, Rumania [Romania] and Bulgaria. At that time there was not a single Turkish ship or submarine in the southern part of the Black Sea, Kasatonov said.

If a plane took off in Turkey or a naval target appeared, Kasatonov said, the Black Sea Fleet came to know about it in no time.

Kasatonov wished the Ukrainian armed forces had not moved its attention away from NATO and switched it to the Black Sea Fleet. As of date, Kasatonov said, up to 60,000 Ukrainian special and other troops were stationed in Crimea. The Black Sea Fleet had 3,000 Marines and Coast Guards in the same area.

Kasatonov said "the destructive Ukrainian forces and the British" were planning to celebrate something to be known as the Day of the British Soldier in Sebastopol [Sevastopol], to pay tribute to the memory of the British troops killed in the Crimean War of 1856. Kasatonov said the Russians had four months to prepare to honor the memory of the Russian soldiers killed in the same war.

Soskovets Promises Repayment of Military Debt

MK1805080094 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 18 May 94, p 2

[Natalya Gorodetskaya report under the "Hopes" rubric: "Oleg Soskovets Promises To Liberalize Arms Export"]

[Text] Oleg Soskovets, Russian first deputy prime minister, who is on a three-day tour of the Volga and Urals regions to visit local military-industrial enterprises, has attempted to ease tension in the regions over the government's failure to pay for defense production manufactured in 1993-94. On Monday, in Udmurtia, where the military-industrial sector accounts for 80 percent of overall industrial production and employs half of all workers, Mr. Soskovets said at a meeting with the personnel of the Izhevsk Engineering Plant that some problems facing defense enterprises could be resolved by liberalizing the export of military goods.

"Of course, political objectives must be taken into account, but nonetheless we will enable the enterprises to export their products on their own," the deputy prime minister said. In his words, the state plans to restrict only the export of high-tech products that could affect the country's defense capabilities. Otherwise, "we will sell whatever they will buy," Mr. Soskovets promised. The deputy prime minister also promised on behalf of the government that debts to the defense industry will be repaid once the federal budget is approved.

Also on Monday, a joint meeting of the Russian Federation State Defense Industry Committee and the Udmurt Government was held. As a result, Viktor Glukhikh, chairman of the State Defense Industry Committee, and Udmurt Prime Minister Aleksandr Volkov signed an agreement on cooperation in the conversion and development of military-industrial sector enterprises. The document, which will be in force until 1998, defined areas of the development of management, economic, financial, and legal ties. The Udmurt government believes that the obligations undertaken by Russia will help the republic's economy remain more or less stable when converting the defense enterprises for civilian uses.

Yesterday, Oleg Soskovets arrived in Cheboksary, where he met with Chuvash President Nikolay Fedorov and visited a number of plants—Khimprom, Promtraktor, and Dieselprom. Today, in Ulyanovsk, he is scheduled to visit Russia's largest aviation enterprise—the Aviastr plant.

Effect of Spending Cuts on 10th Army Viewed

PM1705115594 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Article by [illegible] Yelkov: "If MiGs Could Raise Pollock"]

[Text]

Bad Luck Army

You can still remember the time when all military units without exception were anonymous? They dealt with the anonymity with military resolve. All the units acquired numbers and many of them acquired renown: the 14th army, the 12th post....

Many but not all. The 10th air defense separate army made a serious bid for popularity in connection with the violation of the air border by a Cessna. But not the Cessna on which Rust flew in in May 1987. Later: On 29 May 1988 Mattias Rust's instructor tried to repeat his exploit by flying into the zone of responsibility of the 10th separate army from the North. They did not shoot down the Cessna but simply expelled it. The incident because of the speculative interest in facts of a directly opposite nature remained unnoticed by the press. The 10th air defense army nonetheless acquired some renown: After the arrest of a general who was chief of the army rear services and several of his subordinates. The journalists called the trial "the air defense case." A renown which is highly specific and even offensive to thousands of officers honorably serving in the not very comfortable conditions of the Arctic. Actually, as the famous cartoon character wisely noted, good deeds do not bring you fame.

The 10th army includes all the air defense forces units and formations covering the Russian North from the Arctic Amderma to Karelia. Hundreds of fighters, powerful radar, and air defense missiles. Headquarters in Arkhangelsk. Subordinate to Moscow. During the Cold War its regiments and divisions stood loyally as a buffer on the routes of strategic bombers to the capital. To get through to Moscow they would first have had to destroy the 10th army.

The most modern MiGs and missiles were always in the 10th army. But so were the Northernmost townships and garrisons.

Today a high price has been paid for former priorities. The state has deemed it unnecessary to maintain radar stations and airfields in the Arctic. God be with the hardware, but people went with the hardware: They had destinies, plans, hopes.... On the Arctic islands they have had to abandon considerable material assets, homes, barracks (they took decades to settle in and just months have been assigned for the evacuation). Perhaps the army's reduction will ease the federal coffers? Neither today nor in the next year or two. According to the figures of Aviation Lieutenant General Gennadiy Vasilyev, commander of the 10th army, the withdrawal of a few units has cost eight times more than their maintenance.

The general mood is quite pessimistic. The majority are holding out but a feeling of futility and uncertainty has already lodged in many hearts. And that is a terrible state. It brings any ordinary psychological problem to a dramatic finale. On 25 april on a small island of the Novaya Zemlya archipelago Captain Andrey Proskurdin, commander of a radar company, shot his wife with an assault rifle and then took his own life. He left no note.

It is not only the regiments of the 10th army that are being reduced. No one knows what will happen to the army itself tomorrow. In an attempt to prevent mental ferment tempting prospects are being outlined for the officers. In newspapers Moscow generals discuss the creation of military space defense forces.

Space is all very well. But it is increasingly difficult for the air regiments to break away from the earth. There is no kerosine or spare parts. Kilp-Yavr is the 10th army's forward airfield not far from Murmansk. Colonel Nikolay Ovechkin's SU-7 regiment is based here. The pilots' flying time last year averaged 30-40 hours. They will hardly fly any more this year. Is that a lot or a little. In the Saudi Arabian air force a fighter pilot spends 20 hours in the air. But not in a year. A month.

Incidentally, Western air reconnaissance operators as though out of spite are increasing their activity at our borders.

The commander of a Norwegian "Orion" ASW aircraft receives something like $6,000 a month. Ovechkin's boys, who prevent the "Orions" from brazenly covering our submarines with hydroacoustic buoys, at least in Russian territorial waters (U.S. submariners simply ignore our sovereignty) have not received a ruble since January. The coffers of the financial section are hopelessly empty. The airmen are writing letters to the Chief Military Prosecutor's Office and threatening to go on strike. And...they are on duty and guarding the border passionately as though to spite someone.

Major Vladimir Yelgin, commander of the airfield technical backup battalion, says that he has developed a sixth sense as yet unknown to science: An inner voice tells him when he should leave the headquarters for the airfield to avoid meeting the officers' wives. The women bring their children and go to the headquarters to ask for the money they themselves and their husbands have earned. But where is the battalion commander to get this money?

In the nearby air defense missile brigade commanded by Colonel Sergey Tikhov, the state of affairs as regards paying money is similar but here all the scientists have actively been procuring mushrooms and berries and dry-curing fish since the fall.

The brigade is armed with the most sophisticated missiles including the "star" of the Abu-Dhabi exhibition, the S-800 system. Its NATO codename is "Grumble." A most inept name. Both the men and the system are remarkable ungrumbling. The missiles have been stored in containers without servicing for 10 years. Such is their design. It must be supposed that is in case the Defense Ministry's money dries up completely even for the purchase of food for rations and the troops begin to faint from hunger.

No, no one here is against peace. Even those whose profession is preparation for the opposite. But who said that an insulting attitude toward the men who carry guns is the path toward peace and stability?

Strategic Nuclear Forces, Alert Duty Examined

PM1705122194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 14 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Colonel General Stanislav Kochemasov by Aleksandr Dolinin under "Topical Theme" rubric; place and date not given: "The World Is Changing, But the Need for Alert Duty Remains"]

[Text] Articles have been appearing in the press of late expressing concern over the status of Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces [SNF]. Some publications are bluntly trying to convince the reader that ICBM's are unnecessary. Our correspondent turned for clarification to Colonel General Stanislav Kochemasov, chief of the Strategic Missile Forces Main Staff.

[Dolinin] Stanislav Grigoryevich, what is meant by Russia's Strategic Nuclear Forces today?

[Kochemasov] The term signifies first and foremost the Strategic Missile Forces, the basis of Russia's nuclear might, strategic ballistic missile submarine task forces, and strategic aviation. We have always been in favor of preserving this triad—only the balanced development of all its components can provide the guarantee of high combat effectiveness and the capability to execute designated tasks. You know, each component of the SNF has its own advantages and the qualities attributable to it alone. But given the financial and manpower constraints, it will evidently be necessary to grant priority to the development of weaponry and troops alike, and to integrate offensive and support systems. There was a discussion of these questions in the General Staff in April.

[Dolinin] How do you envisage integration?

[Kochemasov] In order to centralize SNF command and control and to determine responsibilty, it would be expedient to set up an operations command authority [operativnoye komandovaniye]. Administrative leadership, however, would remain with the commanders in chief of the various branches of the Armed Forces. The preconditions for this already exist, as does the possibility of creating a unified system of military command and control. But you have to look before you leap....

[Dolinin] What is the place of the Missile Forces in the structure of Russia's SNF?

[Kochemasov] The Strategic Missile Forces remain their basic component—both in terms of quantity of warheads and in terms of a number of other characteristics. This is the objective situation now, and it will persist in fact until 2003-2005—something which is determined not by someone's wish but by the building and development of the SNF in previous years.

[Dolinin] It seems that in the future, too, the Strategic Missile Forces will remain the basis of the SNF. But already, KRASNAYA ZVEZDA readers are getting the impression that the troops are all but completely disarming. Which nuclear missile weapons will Russia still have in the years to come? Is it not the case that we have been bled dry by the well-known Russian-American treaties?

[Kochemasov] Several hundred launchers have been withdrawn from the effective strength of the Strategic Missile Forces. Basically, these are missile complexes [kompleksy] which have been in service for twice the warrantied service life. Not a single launcher has been removed from alert duty if its warrantied service life has not been exhausted. We have kept intact the grouping [gruppirovka] of modern missiles. We are continuing with the planned commissioning, albeit in a lesser quantity, of the Topol mobile missile complexes, which your newspaper has already written about. In order to preserve the armament and hardware of the two combined units from Belorussia [Belarus] we plan to redeploy them to Russia intact. We are including an RS 12M complex in the grouping. This complex will be the first created exclusively by the cooperation of Russian design bureau and plants. Preparations for testing it are progressing as planned. An experimental and test base has been set up at the Mirnyy test site. The first missile for testing systems and power units [sistemy i agregaty] was delivered to the test site at the end of 1993. In accordance with an edict by the president, the Missile Forces and industrial organizations have set about testing the complex.

The system of military command and control is being improved and modernized. All this is being done so that combat potential is maintained at a level guaranteeing deterrence of any aggressor.

[Dolinin] Are the cutbacks affecting the combat readiness of troops? With the elimination of old complexes and the transfer to new ones the need for officers does not lessen but, on the contrary, increases....

[Kochemasov] First, within the framework of the impending modernization of the grouping we plan to retain the existing position areas and their attendant infrastructure, accommodations, and social and cultural facilities, in order to ensure normal living conditions. Second, upon withdrawing missile complexes from the effective strength we are leaving some of the officer personnel in the newly formed units [chasti] or else relocating them to other combined units [soyedineniya]. The main problems concern a lack of accommodations, although we have steadfastly fulfilled the plan for housing construction over the past three or four years.

Cutbacks may affect combat readiness to some extent if measures are not taken. But the main thing is that we preserve a system of centralized military command and control. This allows us to maintain the attained level of combat readiness.

[Dolinin] The program for developing the weaponry of Russia's SNF through the year 2005 stipulates that the basis of the Missile Forces will be the Topol single-warhead solid-propellant missile for the mobile off-road complex, and the Topol M for silo basing. How far does the missile meet this purpose, and how reliable is it? How are preparations for testing the Topol M progressing?

[Kochemasov] The future lies with single-warhead missiles. MIRVed missiles will be withdrawn from effective strength as their operational life expires, as envisaged by the START II Treaty on condition of its ratification. Moreover, 105 MIRVed RS-18 (SS-19) missiles will be reequipped with single-warhead nose sections and retained until their operational life expires. And 90 launch silos for the RS-20 (SS-18) heavy missiles will be converted to accommodate the Topol M fixed-site version.

The composition of the SNF and the number of delivery vehicles must be brought to a level which guarantees the solution of the task of strategic deterrence, and it must be commensurate with the actual military threat. For the Strategic Missile Forces, this level has been set at between 900 and 1,000 missile launchers by the year 2003. START II allows for their number to be increased to between 1,000 and 1,200 missile launchers.

[Dolinin] Stanislav Grigoryevich, the continued development of missile technology is impossible without a solid testing base. In this connection, what is the fate of the Kapyar test site, and what are its functions today? Is the proposed reassigning of the rocket test site at Plesetsk (Mirnyy) to the military-space units an appropriate move?

[Kochemasov] Extensive and comprehensive ground-based test site trials cut the cost of the development [sozdaniye] of any complex, inasmuch as they drastically reduce the number of missiles required for actual launches. When the capacity of a test site is based on the number of missile launches, this has to be seen not as an advantage but as a serious shortcoming in the methodology of ground-based testing.

At the Kapustin Yar test site, individual elements of a complexes are tested by firing over short distances using inexpensive series-produced carriers [seriyno otrabotannyye i deshevyye nositeli]. The main tests of systems and power units, the complex as a whole and the missiles, incorporating launches, are carried out at the Mirnyy test site. The methodology for developing a complex is such that up to 70 percent of the tests are conducted on the ground.

The question of reassigning the test site is raised from time to time by the command of the Military-Space Forces. It would be an appropriate move if the existing structure and system of subordination disrupted or seriously hindered the execution of tasks in the new conditions. But it does neither. The problem has been studied in depth, and the president of Russia has been made aware of the situation. It was deemed advisable to preserve the existing system of subordination. The test site's 30-year history, and the last few years in particular, confirm the possibility of resolving all tasks in precisely this organizational-regulation structure [organizatsionno-shtatnaya struktura].

[Dolinin] In May this year, missile launchers will no longer have any targets. There will take place the so-called zero targeting agreed with the Americans. Their missiles will be targeted on desert regions of the earth insofar as the system of military command and control of American ICBM's is somewhat different. What will this mean in practice?

[Kochemasov] In line with the accords reached and a directive from the Russian president, by 31 May the missiles will be on alert duty with "zero" mission assignments. Put simply, they will not have specific targets.

The practical implementation of the nontargeting regime depends on the design characteristics of the missile complexes, and this will be determined specifically by us and by the American side for each type of missile. The common element for all, however, is the clear lowering of the sudden-strike threshold, inasmuch as a number of operational and technical measures will have to be conducted in order to reestablish each side's combat plans. This will take time, which the politicians can made additional use of to find a peaceful solution to problems if they emerge.

However the circumstances take shape, the Strategic Missile Forces will perform their alert duty. Around 20,000 missilemen are at their combat posts around the clock. As they have been for virtually the past 35 years. The world is changing, but the need for alert duty has not disappeared.

Need Seen To Reassess Army Cuts

PM1705135194 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Article by Colonel Gennadiy Miranovich of KRASNAYA ZVEZDA under the rubric "View of Problem": "In the Snare of Populist Decisions, Or Returning Once More to the Topic of What Kind of Army Russia Needs"]

[Text] Don't you think, esteemed reader, that the two years of the existence of the Russian Army have witnessed changes not only in the appearance and content of the state's military machine proper but also in our attitudes toward this machine, in society's "defense consciousness," so to speak? Here are just a few indications.

The Armed Forces, which a little while ago were diligently defamed by speakers at microphones, on television, and in newspaper pages, can today be said to be being advertised at state level. It looks as though the lofty concept of "patriotism," which had almost been reduced to an expletive, is again beginning to acquire its proper sound at that level, and a new section entitled "Moral and Psychological Support" has actually appeared in the Ground Forces Field Manual. Amendments are being made to earlier decisions connected with drafting Russian citizens for military service. The question of the strength of the Armed Forces, which had seemed a dead issue, is again the subject of debate....

What do these and other "amendments" concerning spheres of vital importance to the state show? Primarily that it is obvious that some of the decisions made in the past on the crest of a wave of populism are not in line with today's realities. It is not easy to admit this. But there is nothing to be done, we will have to find the strength and courage, if not to repent, then at least to attempt as far as possible to eliminate excesses where they have been allowed to occur. After all, there is a great deal at stake—the security of the state.

In the opinion of a number of experts, the rule introduced into effect by Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Decree No 3532-1 of 24 September 1992 whereby the strength of the Russian Armed Forces must not exceed 1 percent of the country's population can be included among decisions of this kind. What prompted this rule? Was it taken into account that the specifics of the organizational development of the Russian Army are determined not only by the fact that it is being created on the basis of the USSR Armed Forces but also by the fact that it must accord with the level of real military danger and the new geopolitical and other realities?

First, as has already been said, a great deal was done back then in an ecstasy of populism: The Army is "eating the country out of house and home," it has "more generals than all the world's armies added together," "no one is threatening us," and so on, and so forth. Second, the real challenges of the time were not sufficiently clear to make it possible to calculate everything accurately. We have now "wised up," because we have a military doctrine providing a sufficiently clear idea of the state's views of defense tasks. But back then? It is no secret that some people in parliament saw the future Russian Army as something like a small national guard designed to combat natural disasters and calamities.

Of course, there could be no question of keeping 2.8 million men under arms (that is how many there were in Russia at the time of the president's edict on creating its Armed Forces). Intensive cuts began within the framework of the reform of the Army and Navy. In particular, during the second stage of the reforms (1993-1995) it was proposed to have 2.1 million men and during the third (after 1995) it was proposed to have 1.5 million. Is this a lot or a little so far as Russia is concerned? We will clearly have a final answer upon completion of the studies to substantiate the structure, composition, and strength of the Armed Forces for the period after 1995 that are currently under way in parallel with the elaboration of a blueprint for their organizational development in the long term. As for the opinions of various experts, academics, and specialists, they still cover quite a broad spectrum.

Probably the most popular idea, now commonplace, is that almost one of the main ways of stabilizing Russia's budget is the continuous and intensive reduction of military spending by cutting the strength of the Armed Forces. The reasoning is that their strength, even in their reduced form, will substantially exceed the strength of the armies of the most developed European states—Germany, France, Britain.

I will not venture to judge the validity of such arguments from the scientific viewpoint. I will leave that to academics. But I cannot remain silent about something that seems to me to be obvious. What is obvious is our vast country which is unique in its geopolitical situation.

Yes, Russia's position in the post-Soviet space is such that it is now separated from the West European countries not only by the Central and East European countries but also by a second "belt"—the Baltic countries, Belorussia [Belarus], Ukraine, Moldavia [Moldova]. The length of coastline in the west and south has been sharply reduced. But at the same time from the geopolitical viewpoint Russia retains many elements of the USSR's position. Its territory is at the intersection between Europe and Asia and it has common borders with Christian (in the west) and Muslim (in the south) states and with countries with a Confucian ideology (in the east). The shores of Russia are washed by the waters of 12 seas and three oceans, and it retains long maritime borders in the north and east. On top of that you have abundant natural wealth and direct encirclement by more than 10 states, most of which have either acute claims on Russia or a serious interest in it. All this objectively compels us to seek our own ways of ensuring the homeland's security, including via determining the optimum strength of the Armed Forces.

For instance, take the southern section of Russia's flank region. In the USSR, as is well known, the North Caucasus Military District was in the rear. This accordingly influenced its tasks, structure, and manning level, and the orientation of troop training. Now it is a border district. Moreover, the situation there requires an adequate military presence on Russia's part, so to speak. All this must be taken into account somehow.

Now let us turn to the range of tasks which, according to the provisions of the military doctrine, Russia's Army and Navy must be ready to resolve. The main danger to stability and peace, the doctrine asserts, is now local wars and armed conflicts. But at the same time it is not ruled out that in specific conditions these may develop into a large-scale war. Consequently we must be concerned in advance to ensure that the combat potential of general-purpose forces is at a level guaranteeing the repulse of aggression and that it can be rapidly increased in the event of an increase in the scale of military operations.

Moreover, the doctrine envisages the possibility of using individual Armed Forces formations to assist internal affairs organs and MVD [Ministry of Internal Affairs] internal troops in localizing and blockading conflict zones, stopping armed clashes and separating the warring sides, and also protecting strategically important facilities. The Armed Forces may be entrusted with tasks of assisting the Border Troops in guarding the state border and assisting other forces in guarding maritime communications, important state facilities, and economic zones and combating terrorism, illegal drug trafficking and piracy. It is not impossible that the Armed Forces could be used to assist the population in eliminating the consequences of industrial and environmental calamities and natural disasters.

Let us also not forget a task that is fundamentally new to us—participation by the Armed Forces in UN peacemaking operations, and also in collective peacekeeping forces inside the CIS. Suffice it to say that last year the general troop grouping performing these tasks had one army, one army corps, two divisions, four brigades, and 10 regiments. All this must also be taken into account in determining the strength of the Armed Forces.

Yes, we are now oriented toward mobile defense. And it would naturally be excellent to have small but quite powerful mobile forces ready for operational use wherever a real threat to Russia's security arises—this could compensate to the maximum extent for the sharp reduction in the strength of peacetime troop (forces) groupings. But mobile forces, as a new interbranch strategic-operational formation, are at present only just being set up. Today the foundation of the Russian Armed Forces consists of their five branches: Strategic Missile Forces, Ground Forces, Air Defense Forces, Air Forces, Naval Forces. And this will remain for the transitional period, because to change within a short time the historical table-of-organization structure and systems of control, training, armament, logistical support, and so forth characteristic of each branch of the Armed Forces would require material expenditure that is beyond our capacity today.

Furthermore, in the opinion of knowledgeable people with whom I have discussed this topic, even once the principle of mobile defense has been implemented, at least 2 million men will be required in order to create troop groupings capable of responding appropriately to an increase in the military threat in a specific region by moving mobile Armed Forces components to the scene. Thus here too we must calculate and calculate....

Probably in time the strengthening of Russia's links with the world community and the creation of a new collective military security system in Europe and the world will enable us to substantially change the structure of the Armed Forces, the correlation between their branches, and the principles for the creation and structure of troop groupings and forces in peacetime and wartime. But that is in the future. Like, incidentally, the equipping of the Army and Navy with the most modern means of armed struggle, which will also help to reduce the number of personnel. At the moment we are stuck with what we have got. We should clearly proceed from this fact in seeking a way out of the snare of populist decisions in which we find ourselves.

Missile Unit Killing Details Still Unclear

PM1705092394 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 May 94 p 4

[Report by Arkadiy Zheludkov: "After Murder at Missile Complex"]

[Excerpts] In its issue no. 57 for 26 March IZVESTIYA reported a tragedy in a strategic missile regiment: Private Alik Oshurbekov, who had gone on duty to guard the ICBM complex, killed guard chief Lieutenant Garkusha and his fellow soldier Private Shuktovev, and seriously wounded two more servicemen—Oleg Kozub and Vasiliy Kopylov. To find out how this strange story ended and what conclusions were drawn after a soldier had contrived to capture a nuclear missile complex, our correspondent flew to Altay. [passage omitted]

There is no need now to recall the details of the incident—that is the belief of the military prosecutor's office in Altay. A little later Mikhail Tolkachev, deputy military prosecutor, admits that the missile division is not subordinate in any way to the local military prosecutor's office! I do not know how far this is the case and how far it is an attempt to protect military honor. The fact is that the district military prosecutor's office investigators never tried to study the circumstances of the case. And since the tragic evening the Federal Counterintelligence Service, which (as the KGB) used to have strict control over missile units, has not once interfered in the case, at least officially.

Yet it is not difficult to penetrate to the territory of the missile unit in the settlement of Sibirskiy (the missile division headquarters): At the checkpoint you can say severely to the guard: "I'm in a hurry, I have come to see Major X." And the guard will lazily admit you to the division compound. Getting through to the military township territory is even simpler. And division officers who are witnesses say that, apart from the above-mentioned shooting incident it has recently become customary for the missile division units to be cut off from the power supply—for failing to settle accounts for electricity. In that time damage which cannot be compared with any other catastrophes could have been inflicted on the country—the missile tracking complexes were virtually immobilized for a long time....

Failure of U.S. Investigation of Tragedy

The missile division headquarters in Sibirskiy appeared to the U.S. military government inspectors in all its glory: The Russian command was obliged to report within a day to the U.S. Government any conflict in the compound of any strategic missile unit. And suddenly the Americans learned of the danger of a nuclear explosion not from their Russian counterparts in the treaty but from the Russian mass media—the newspapers ALTAYSKAYA PRAVDA and IZVESTIYA and the INTERFAX news agency. The Americans needed just four hours in all at the missile division headquarters to understand that Russia is not a country where one can learn the reason for a conflict and predict methods of preventing similar incidents.

On the Barnaul airfield runway the leader of the U.S. military delegation merely shrugged when your IZVESTIYA correspondent asked him what he thinks of the incident. The point is that not only did the Americans not see Oshurbekov but they failed to understand from the division investigation materials why the soldier opened fire. "This fact gives you the right to hope that in the very near future Russia will learn of the capture of a U.S. nuclear missile complex only from the mass media," was more or less the interpretation of the U.S. delegation's mood by the interpreter, the only military specialist dressed in the uniform of the U.S. Navy—all the others were in civilian clothing.

The Americans flew off without having gotten an answer to questions about the safety of Russian nuclear missile complexes. Yet only three years ago their military specialists highly assessed the Soviet "SS" missile pods [bloki]. Unfortunately, as the Americans noted, the U.S. Government can now no longer be sure of its Russian partners.

Secrets Again

The incident in March at the ICBM missile unit became known in Altay Kray only thanks to the efforts of Oleg Loginov, an ALTAYSKAYA PRAVDA correspondent, and the IZVESTIYA item. Following these reports questions rained down on both editorial offices: "How do you know that the explosion of the missile fuel tank was dangerous to the surrounding population?" IZVESTIYA received the following complaint from a retired colonel, one of the creators of modern missiles which took over from the "SS" missiles in Altay Kray: "The 12 systems for protecting a warhead are a military secret," the military engineer said. "Our missiles are absolutely safe and will not blow up even if a mad soldier sets fire to them."

I shall answer as follows. No one has ever tried to set fire to ICBM's but on the day of the shooting at the security positions near Bayunovskiye Klyuchi the situation was very close to a combat one—the missile troops guard service regulations say that shots in the direction of missiles are forbidden even if enemy scouting and sabotage groups appear. To this day the majority of the missile troops division officers have heard nothing about the capture of a strategic missiles guard combat vehicle by a rank and file soldier. Many officers thought that this incident was a joke put about by the vigilant first department....

The chaste silence of Colonel Vladimir Parmenov, commander of the Siberian missile troops division, was described by a Japanese correspondent who found out the truth over the telephone as an act of compiling a report for the public press. "Of course," said the naive Japanese journalist. "The military must be answerable to the civilian population for a threat to the country's security?"

And only the counterintelligence officer who informed me of the state of affairs from the missile division told me that Private Oshurbekov "must have gone mad." That is the only way the missile division command could explain one soldier's unpunished capture of the ICBM position.

"Hero" Safely Hidden Away

When I visited the Sibirskiy settlement Private Oshurbekov was not there—his trail was lost somewhere during the investigation. It is known that by the time the Americans flew in the notorious soldier had been detained for psychiatric examination. And it was hinted to me at the division headquarters that long before the U.S. Government delegation arrived Alik Oshurbekov had committed suicide—at the guardhouse. [passage omitted]

According to the information I acquired in Barnaul, at the time of my trip the ill-starred soldier was in the Kazan special regime clinic for the detention of mentally ill citizens who have committed particularly dangerous crimes. Whether the soldier's placing in a psychiatric clinic was justified, time will show: Psychiatric specialists say that such patients in Altay Kray have always had one path—Kazan, Omsk, or Altayskaya Berezovska—and a person's trail is lost there. But was it so necessary to draft into military service a young man "unable to control his actions at moments of anger," as Alik Oshurbekov was described by one of his former commanders, this conclusion stemming from draftee Alik Oshurbekov's personal file.

Where is the guarantee that one day soon another psychopath, better informed than Oshurbekov of the potential of nuclear missiles, will not capture another complex and blackmail us with the threat of nuclear catastrophe? Let us hope that the missile units command will help IZVESTIYA readers to get an answer to the mysteries of Private Oshurbekov's case.

Cosmonauts Continue Space Mission Aboard Mir

LD1705141494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1302 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Flight Control Centre (Moscow region) May 17 TASS—Cosmonauts Viktor Afanasyev, Yuriy Usachev and Valeriy Polyakov continue their space mission aboard the Mir space station.

The crew devoted much time over the past few days to geophysical explorations fulfilled with the use of photographic equipment and videospectromic instrumentation installed on the Kvant-2 module.

They made snapshots of the areas of Chernobyl and the Aral sea, agricultural lands in the Krasnodar territory and the Kalmyk Republic as well as industrial areas in Kazakhstan.

Under the programme of experiments on extra-atmospheric astronomy, the cosmonauts carried out several sessions of observations and registation of galactic and extra-galactic sources of roentgen radiation. They also continued to measure spectres of space radiation in various ranges of wave lengths. The aim of the explorations is to get scientific information on interaction between physical processes in the universe and near-Earth space.

An adjustment of the station's orbit was made on May 16 with the propulsion unit of the Progress M-2 spacecraft.

The flight plan for Tuesday provides for astrophysical, medical and technical experiments, re-equipment of the station and modules with new instrumentation brought to the station by a ferry.

The cosmonauts feel well. Work aboard the station proceeds normally.

Postponement of Soyuz TM-19 Launch Likely

LD1705192894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The launch of the spacecraft Soyuz TM-19 scheduled for June 20 1994 is likely to be postponed, the press service of the Flight Control Center in Kaliningrad, Moscow region, told Interfax. Soyuz was to deliver a new crew, Yuriy Malenchenko and Talgat Musabayev, to the orbit station Mir.

Commenting on the statement, the head of the manned flights and carriers department of the Russian Space Agency, Mikhail Sinelschikov, told Interfax that "an official decision had not yet been made, but the postponement may be caused by production problems concerning the manufacturing of a shield for Soyuz TM-19."

According to unofficial sources, the launch will take place no earlier than July 20 1994.

Malenchenko and Musabayev will work on the manned orbit complex Mir for 135 days as the main crew of the 16th expedition. Astronauts Valeriy Polyakov, Viktor Afanasyev, and Yuriy Usachev have been on the orbit since January 10. On the whole, they will stay there for 179 days, while Polyakov will stay even longer—429 days.

Federal Assembly

Deputies Concerned With U.S. Vote on Bosnia Embargo

LD1705193994 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The International Affairs Committee of the Russian parliament's Federation Council expressed its concern over the unilateral lifting of the embargo against Bosnia by the U.S. Senate. In its Tuesday statement, made available to Interfax, the committee said that such steps could obstruct the joint Russian, U.S. and EU policy in Bosnia and said that weapons should not reach the warring parties.

The committee thought that as the Serbs complied with the peace plan the suspension and, at a later stage, lifting of the sanctions against Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro) would promote peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The upper house deputies expressed their willingness to consult and act jointly with the U.S. senators in resolving the Bosnian crisis.

The State Duma, the lower house of the Russian parliament, had earlier passed a resolution under which, if the embargo on weapons supplies to Bosnia were unilaterally lifted, Russia was to respond adequately, going as far as lifting its own sanctions.

Shumeyko Predicts Federation Council To Reject Duma Budget

LD1805084994 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0810 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Lyudmila Yermakova]

[Text] Moscow, 18 May—The Federation Council will reject the 1994 budget approved by the State Duma. This prediction was made by Federation Council Chairman Vladimir Shumeyko. Speaking to correspondents today, he explained that this "will not be to spite the government or its prime minister, whom I hold in high esteem," but merely in the interests of Russia's regions. Vladimir Shumeyko disclosed that the chamber was actively discussing the reform program, and deputies do not agree with all its provisions.

The budget will be discussed with interregional economic associations. Vladimir Shumeyko said this was why the next session of the Federation Council was being postponed from 23 May, the date originally scheduled, to 30 May. A number of questions connected with the economy have been proposed for the draft agenda.

Deputies Express 'Concern' Over Yeltsin Decree

LD1805102494 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0958 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS parliamentary correspondent Ivan Novikov]

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS—Russian lawmakers have moved for inviting presidential parliament spokesman Aleksandr Yakovlev and Chairman of the Federation Council Vladimir Shumeyko to one of its forthcoming sessions to report on the situation inside the Russian procurator-general's office.

They expressed concern about the fact that in accordance with a presidential decree, all of the Russian procurator-general deputies had been dismissed and wanted to know the reasoning behind the decision.

Russian legislators also voted on Wednesday to invite head of presidential administration Sergey Filatov to a plenary session of the State Duma to answer to their inquiries related to President Yeltsin's letter in regard of the law on the status of a State Duma deputy, which he signed earlier.

They were dissatisfied with explanations which were offered by the chief of the Main Legal Department under the Russian president Ruslan Orekhov at a plenary session of the Duma last Friday.

Belarus Presidential Candidate Addresses Duma

LD1805100394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0951 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Kuznetsov]

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS—One of the contenders of presidency in Belarus, Aleksandr Lukashenko, today called for unification of Russia, Ukraine and Belarus at a plenary session of the Russian State Duma. Given the floor by a majority decision in the Russian parliament's chamber he urged the three countries to set up a joint parliamentary group and to go to work on the documents, on the basis of which the three republics, which initiated the creation of the Commonwealth of Independent States, will be able to reunify.

Lukashenko called that decision "a mistake made in December 1991", which should be recognised as such.

Chairman of the Duma Committee for Commonwealth Affairs Konstantin Zatulin then proposed that a record be made in the minutes of the chamber's plenary meeting to the effect that the speech of the Belarusian colleague "in no way reflects the State Duma's position".

Russia's Choice also disavowed Lukashenko's statement. Its representative Boris Zolotukhin called for declaring Lukashenko's address to the Duma "inappropriate, as being directly connected with his presidential election campaigning". He recalled that according to parliamentary standards, the Duma can only be addressed by a representative of the official parliamentary delegation from Belarus.

Regional Affairs

Yeltsin Calls Russia, Caucasus 'Inseparable'

LD1805095894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0927 GMT 18 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow May 18 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin said that Russia and the Caucasus are inseparable and added that the dreams of Caucasian peoples for well-being and flourishment can come true only through solidarity in constructing a democratic society, through public and interethnic accord and civic peace.

"In our conscience Russia and the Caucasus are inseparably linked notions. One cannot be imagined without the other", Yeltsin said in an address to the Caucasian peoples on Tuesday in connection with the 130th anniversary of the end of the Caucasian war which resulted in the incorporation of the Caucasus into the Russian empire.

"The events of a more than a century-long history return us to those years when the interests of the Russian empire, Great Britain, France, Iran and Turkey clashed in the struggle for the Caucasus. All those states bear a share of moral responsibility for the sufferings of the highlanders", the president said.

Yeltsin admitted that in various times the Caucasian war was assessed in different ways. "At present, when Russia is building a law-governed state and recognises the priority of human values, a possibility emerges to objectively assess the Caucasian war as courageous struggle of the peoples of the Caucasus not only for survival on their own land, but also for the preservation of their self-styled culture, the best traits of the national character".

The president added that the problems inherited from the Caucasian war, including the return of descendants of Caucasian refugees back to their historic motherland, should be solved at the international level through negotiations of all the interested parties.

The Caucasus should be "forever with Russia"—these words are dear for every Russian, Yeltsin stressed.

Yeltsin Removes Novgorod Official To Transfer to New Job

LD1605135794 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1243 GMT 16 May 94

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscw, 16 May—Today, Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered Viktor Ivanov released from the post of head of administration of the town of Novgorod in connection with the latter's transfer to another job. This was reported by the press service of the president of the Russian Federation.

Opposition Candidates Win Chelyabinsk Oblast Elections

MK1705123194 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Anatoliy Belozertsev report: "Opposition Wins"]

[Text] Elections for the Federation Council and the oblast Duma have been held in Chelyabinsk Oblast. A. Starikov, general director of the Magnitogorsk Metallurgy Combine joint-stock company, and Professor M. Isayev, a prominent Urals economist, were elected to the upper chamber of the Russian legislature.

Unfortunately, Army General V. Varennikov, Hero of the Soviet Union, who was nominated by the oblast's communists, could not garner the requisite number of votes. But the southern Urals' voters were wise enough to vote down the candidate of the extreme right—Conservative Republican Party Chairman L. Ubozhko, a staunch anti-communist.

In the oblast Duma elections, supporters of the "For Urals Revival" opposition movement under P. Sumin, former Russian people's deputy and chairman of the oblast council, won a majority of votes. The oblast legislature will be clearly Soviet both in its lineup and its spirit.

Regional Associations Sign Protocol of Cooperation

MK1705111294 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian, 17 May 94, p 2

[Yelena Tregubova report under the "Province" rubric: "Federation Council Promises 'Equal Rights' to Regions. Associations Give Up State-Owned Status 'Not To Expose Themselves'"]

[Text] A protocol of intentions has been signed with representatives of all eight Russian interregional associations—Central Russia, the North-West, the Chernozem zone, the Siberian Accord, the Association of North Caucasian Krays and Oblasts, the Greater Volga, the Urals Regional Association, and the Far Eastern Association. According to Federation Council Speaker Vladimir Shumeyko, "the country's leaders have paid dearly for their misconception that authority is concentrated in Moscow alone." Mr. Shumeyko reaffirmed that from now on the federal authorities will see interregional associations as "an equal subject of regional politics and a participant in all talks."

The protocol that was signed calls for a cooperation treaty to be negotiated between the federal parliament and the associations, which, as the interregional association leaders expect, will be followed by the adoption of "a law on interregional cooperation" in which the associations will have a key role to play. Moreover, Vladimir Shumeyko hinted at the possibility of conferring "a state- legal status" on the associations.

The discussion on substance was held in strict secrecy from the press.

Aleksandr Danusiya, general director of the Central Russia association, told your SEGODNYA correspondent that "most association chiefs categorically opposed the proposal to finance them from the budget." "First, because this would necessitate accounting..." But the main reason for the interregional association chiefs' reluctance to assume "state status," Aleksandr Danusiya acknowledged, is that "one should not rush into the idea of enlarging the associations..." He is certain that "the associations are a prototype of a future management structure, but when they can become such—in 10-15 years or in two years—will depend on the situation..."

However, even at this stage interregional association leaders call themselves "the sole body that can coordinate and actually implement all decisions on the ground." For instance, according to Anatoliy Dolgolaptev, coordinator of the Council of Interregional Associations, "the adoption of the 1993 privatization program was delayed so long precisely because we disagreed with it, and it was finally passed only after appropriate amendments were made."

The Federation Council speaker is so far inclined to take a fairly ironical view on the possible evolution of interregional associations into government structures. If Federation components are enlarged and the 89 components are merged into eight (according to the current number of associations), then the Federation Council will consist of only 16 members, and it will be easier to work with them,“ [quotation marks as published] Shumeyko joked at a news conference after the protocol was signed, noting, however, that "this joke may have a grain of truth in it.“

Impact of Semipalatinsk N-Tests on Altay Kray Discussed

PM1705121194 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Andrey Illarionov report under the "News" rubric: "Nuclear Trail of Semipalatinsk Test Site"]

[Text] Barnaul—The scientific council for the program entitled "The Remote Consequences of the Effects of Radiation From Nuclear Tests at the Semipalatinsk Test Site on the Territory of Altay Kray," organized by the kray administration and the Institute of Regional Medical and Biological Problems, opened its proceedings in Barnaul 11 May.

The results of the scientific work on this problem, highly topical to this day, and avenues for further research were summarized in reports by Valentin Koptyug, chairman of the Russian Academy of Sciences Siberian Department; Valeriy Trufakin, chairman of the Russian Academy of Medical Sciences Siberian Department; and program leader Professor Yakov Shoykhet.

A broad circle of scientists from Siberian cities, from Moscow, and from the states of the former Union republics are taking part in the discussion. The scientific council is continuing its work.

Karelia's Assembly Takes Over Legislative Branch

LD1705151894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1436 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Legislative Assembly of Karelia declared itself the sole legislature of that constituent republic of the Russian Federation under Article 65 of the republic's Constitution.

The Assembly, elected last March, also declared itself a successor of the Karelian Supreme Soviet.

Provisional by-laws of the Assembly were adopted.

Galina Pivnenko, chairman of the republic's trade union council, was elected to chair the House of Representatives and Ivan Aleksandrov, former deputy chairman of the Karelian Supreme Soviet, was elected to chair the House of the Republic.

Viktor Stepanov, who won the April 17 elections, would be sworn in as the prime minister in the afternoon of Tuesday. He used to chair the Karelian Supreme Soviet.

International Affairs

Delegation Gives News Conference on U.S. Talks

LD1605135394 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Borispol, Kiev oblast, 16 May—Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov and Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk gave a news conference at Borispol airport on the results of their visit to the United States. Mr. Shmarov, the head of the delegation, spoke about the main issues which the delegation worked on in Washington, in particular, Ukraine's entry into the regime of control over the proliferation of missile technologies and missile equipment, analysis of the implementation of START I Treaty obligations, cooperation in nuclear power, and issues connected with conversion.

The planned work was carried out. When working with their American counterparts, Mr. Shmarov emphasized, our delegation felt their recognition of Ukraine as a partner.

An important result of the Ukrainian delegation's work in Washington was the signing of the memorandum on mutual understanding between the governments of Ukraine and the United States concerning the handover of missile equipment and technologies, and also a joint statement which noted that all missiles aimed at Ukraine will be redirected by 30 May.

"This visit was an important step toward extending cooperation between the governments of Ukraine and the United States," Ukraine's deputy premier stressed.

Officials Assess U.S. Agreements on Missile Transfer, Space

LD1705213294 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1930 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no dateline as received]—Members of Ukraine's working delegation to Washington attended a briefing at Ukraine's Foreign Ministry on 17 May. Ukraine's Deputy Prime Minister Valeriy Shmarov, who led the delegation, believes the signing of the memorandum on mutual understanding between the governments of Ukraine and the United States on the transfer of missile equipment and technology has become an important step in Ukraine's accession to the world distribution of labor in the implementation of space programs, since no country owns a complete production cycle in this area. The document also illustrates the fact that "Ukraine has joined the group of civilized countries, instead of falling to the level of Iraq or North Korea."

In the course of negotiations, the Ukrainian side managed to persuade the United States to lift the clause in the agreement on space cooperation between the United States and Russia that concerns the countries of the former Soviet Union as one which infringes upon the rights of the third party.

Giving a generally favorable assessment of the trip's results, Valeriy Kazakov, deputy minister of machine-building, military-industrial complex, and conversion, said that despite U.S. assurances of a fine state of relations between the United States and Ukraine, economic cooperation and work in the sphere of conversion is proceeding slowly. A great deal of attention during the visit was paid to the intensification of conversion programs. For example, it was possible to agree to a list of 35 enterprises subject to immediate restructuring. The U.S. side has allocated $20 million to this end.

Asked by UNIAN to comment on the breakthrough in the U.S. attitude to Ukraine, Deputy Foreign Minister Borys Tarasyuk said it reflected international reality and our country's consistent policy stance. Tarasyuk emphasized that this change began after the signing of the trilateral statement by Ukraine, Russia, and the United States.

Foreign Ministry Denounces Russian-Crimean Agreement

LD1705181194 Kiev UNIAR in Ukrainian 1435 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Kiev, 17 May—On 13 May, the Republic of Crimea signed a framework agreement with the Russian Federation on economy and trade. Representatives of Ukraine's Ministry of Foreign Affairs point out, however, that the agreement cannot be regarded as an international treaty, since one of the sides (the Republic of Crimea) has no international legal status, being an autonomous constituent part of Ukraine.

The agreement that was signed stipulates its aim as that of promoting further development of ties between the Russian Federation and the Republic of Crimea as a part of Ukraine on the basis of the Russo-Ukrainian intergovernmental agreement on trade and economic cooperation in 1994. What the Ukrainian side is concerned about is the very procedure of signing this agreement, since Russia had previously stated to all countries and international organizations that entities within the Russian Federation signing foreign trade agreements must coordinate their actions with the federal authorities.

In its relations with the Russian Federation, Ukraine strictly adheres to the proposed procedure. Thus, direct trade agreements between Ukraine and the Republic of Sakha (Yakutia) and the Republic of Tatarstan were signed only after necessary consent was obtained from the Russian federal authorities. Ukraine informed the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in a respective note dated 29 March that the Republic of Crimea is required to coordinate its actions with Ukraine's central authorities in setting up international and foreign trade links. But this was not done and Russia has once again violated the principle of reciprocity in international relations.

Crimean Speaker Says Goal To Reunite With Russia

MK1705134594 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Report by Konstantin Parishkura under the "Neighbors" rubric: "Crimea Wants Out of Ukraine"]

[Text] A session of Crimea's parliament will reinstate in the next few days the 6 May 1992 Constitution of the Republic of Crimea under which Crimea is not part of Ukraine. This was announced to journalists by Sergey Tsekov, speaker of the Crimean Supreme Council, in his first news conference on 15 May. The Crimean Supreme Council's final objective is to restore unity with Russia, he said. This is recorded in the programs of the Republican Party and the "Russia" election bloc from which the majority of the deputies and President Yuriy Meshkov were elected. The speaker also intimated that a Crimean national guard will soon be set up.

Vyacheslav Chornovil, leader of the People's Rukh of Ukraine, has stated in this connection to the "INTERFAX-UKRAINE" news agency: "A coup is under way in Crimea with all-round support from the Russian Federation." In his view, the fact that "ranking officials from Russia are taking part" in the work of the Crimean parliament is also a matter for concern. They "are suggesting to Crimean leaders the idea that Crimea join the CIS, and that Crimea should raise the question of the withdrawal of Ukraine's armed forces from its territory."

Report Criticizes Crimean Leader's Separatism

AU1605194494 Kiev MOLOD UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 13 May 94 p 1

[Article by MOLOD UKRAYINY special correspondent Vitaliy Portnykov: "Meshkov Holds Negotiations With Luzhkov"]

[Text] During his recent visit to the Russian capital, Crimean President Yuriy Meshkov signed an agreement on economic cooperation with Moscow Mayor Yuriy Luzhkov. Of course, the press was not so much interested in the list of goods that the Crimea is going to trade with Moscow, as in the very fact of Meshkov's meeting with one of the most prominent Russian politicians who was recently named among plausible successors to either Boris Yeltsin or Viktor Chernomyrdin.

The content of the negotiations between Meshkov and Luzhkov has remained a secret for journalists as also the content of the huge bag that Meshkov presented to the Moscow mayor (Luzhkov presented the Crimean president with a vase decorated with the Russian coat of arms). At the news conference given after the signing of the agreement on economic cooperation, the Moscow mayor recalled that Moscow already has similar agreements with both former Soviet republics and subjects of the Russian state. However, the agreement with the Crimea is, after all, special: The mayor considers the political processes on the peninsula to be incomplete and calls upon Russians to assist the Crimea. Luzhkov characterized going to the Crimea on vacations as a patriotic duty of every Russian citizen.

The head of the autonomy was less fastidious in his statements. He expressed confidence that the fact of both sides' being apart was temporary, as "the economy will unite all of us," proposed that the problem of the Black Sea Fleet be resolved in the course of bilateral negotiations between Russia... and the Crimea (!), and bitterly complained at the conduct of [Ukraine's defense minister] General Radetskyy, who had imprudently reminded Meshkov of the actual meaning of his "autonomous post." While characterizing "Ukraine's economic collapse," Meshkov reminded the audience that every nationalism has two paths: One toward economic dislocation and the second—toward a civil war. "For the time being, Ukraine has opted for the former, but it is at a dangerous brink," stressed Meshkov, who tried, in all of his other statements, to adhere to the role of a well-wishing director of a holiday home and guaranteed the Russians every security, if they finally succumbed to the joint persuasions by the mayor and president and go to the Crimea. In Yuriy Meshkov's opinion, it is only now that the holiday-making in the Crimea is so cheap, since the Crimean leader sees his peninsula precisely in the ruble zone, perhaps, next to Tajikistan involved in conflicts....

Therefore, everybody must be in a hurry.

Swedish Deputy Minister Ends Talks on Cooperation

LD1805095394 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 2000 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—The press centre of Ukraine's Foreign Affairs Ministry announced today that the two-day Ukrainian-Swedish consultations ended. Sweden was represented by Deputy Foreign Affairs Minister L. Nilsson who met with officials from the Foreign Ministry, the Ukrainian presidential service for international issues, and the administration of the Ukrainian presidential representative in Kiev. A wide variety of issues relating to bilateral relations was discussed and ways outlined to step up Ukrainian-Swedish cooperation in such influential international organizations as the United Nations, the CSCE, the Council of Europe, and others.

Further on Military Cooperation Accord With Austria

WS1805102094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 18 May 94

[Text] Ukraine and Austria, which are separated by only a few hundred kilometers, should influence one another, and my meetings with Ukrainian officials are yet another step toward preserving peace in Europe. This was said at a news conference by Austrian Defense Minister Werner Fasslabend, who is currently on an official visit to Ukraine. As Ukrainian Defense Minister Vitaliy Radetskyy noted, both countries advocate the development of mobile and effective armed forces. The exchange of experience at all military levels between Ukraine and Austria will play an important role in ensuring European stability. The defense ministers spoke in positive terms about NATO's Partnership for Peace program, which envisions equal conditions for all countries. They also announced the signing a joint statement on cooperation between the Ukrainian and Austrian Defense Ministries. Dr. Werner Fasslabend also met with Dmytro Chernenko, Ukraine's minister of machine-building, defense industries, and conversion.

Thefts of Radioactive Isotopes Increasing

PM1705125594 Moscow TRUD in Russian 17 May 94 p 6

[Report by Nikolay Mokrishchev: "Thefts at the Level of 'Accidents'"]

[Text] Donetsk Oblast—...The night shift at the "Shakhterskaya-Glybokaya" pit was in full swing. The shipment of coal was preceding normally. When suddenly the alarm on the control panel went off—one of the skip elevators had broken down. They replaced the electronic part of the instrument, but there was no change.... The duty engineer discovered the cause and reported that a sensor containing a radioactive source of cesium 137 had been stolen. Only with the help of this device is it possible to spot in the shroud of coal dust the critical moment which is followed by an inevitable accident.

Several hours had passed after the emergency situation near Shakterskiy, when a still more alarming signal came from the city of Dzerzhinsk. Here three vials disappeared at once during the work shift. The robbers did not stand on ceremony, and carried them off together with their lead containers, which weigh 100 kg each.

The disappearance from industrial enterprises of radioactive isotopes with an activity of three curie is no laughing matter. Hence, the events were immediately reported to officials of the Donetsk Oblast Association for the Protection of Public Health. The official investigation uncovered many circumstances of the theft of the lethal vials—customers have been found abroad and, for the sake of relatively paltry sums of hard currency, people are exposing themselves to the risk of a slow death.

These thefts, which are taking on the character of a real disaster for Donbass enterprises, are already becoming customary. Twenty-one such "accidents"—this is how the emergency situations involving radioactive isotopes are described in official documents—have been recorded in the oblast. But whereas until recent times 14 cases were caused by unpremeditated actions and circumstances, seven in the last few months have been the result of thefts.

National Affairs

Central Electoral Commission Registers Kravchuk, Plyushch

LD1705185294 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The central electoral commission of Ukraine registered Leonid Kravchuk and Ivan Plyushch on 17 May as contenders for the president of Ukraine. Kravchuk received 323,600 signatures in support, while Ivan Plyushch got 265,041. The central electoral commission has examined applications from registered initiative groups of electors, signature letters, and protocols of signature-raising in support of potential candidates for the president of Ukraine, as well as contenders' statements of consent to stand in the election, their programs, and last year's tax declarations. It was established that the nomination of these potential presidential candidates and signature-raising in their support was conducted in adherence to the requirements of the electoral law.

Presidential Press Service Issues Statement on Crimea

LD1705210194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 2010 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by UKRINFORM for TASS]

[Text] Kiev 17 May TASS—A statement of the press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers on the Crimean situation has been circulated by mass media today.

The statement runs as follows:

"The recent developments in the Crimea, statements and acts of the Crimean officials provoke Ukrainian and international concern over a possibility of sharp deterioration of the Crimean social and economic situation and formation of a danger and instability spot in Central Europe.

"The new leadership of the autonomy has passed over from declaration of its intentions to actions aiming to change the legal status of the Autonomous Republic of the Crimea as an integral party of Ukraine.

"For instance, a regular meeting of the Crimean Supreme Soviet plans to discuss the return to specific provisions of the Crimean Constitution in the edition of 6 May 1992, which ran counter to the Ukrainian Constitution and were changed by the Crimean Supreme Soviet itself in September 1992. Thus, an attempt is being made to revise the current Crimean constitution and create grounds for the Crimean separation from Ukraine which would be a gross violation of the Ukrainian territorial integrity.

"Attempts of the Crimean leadership to legalize Crimean citizenship, create the Crimean Armed Forces and change the status of the city of Sevastopol provoke alarm.

"All this runs counter to the Ukrainian Constitution and laws, as well as universally-recognized principles of the international law.

"Ambitious strivings of some Crimean politicians run counter to the Ukrainian goodwill to contribute to the comprehensive social, economic and cultural development of the Crimea. It was the Ukrainian Supreme Soviet that gave the Crimean region a status of the autonomous republic within Ukraine, adopted a law 'on division of powers between the Ukrainian and Crimean state power bodies.' The Ukrainian president issued a decree 'on regime of open economy on territory of the Crimean Republic.' The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers has regulated with the Crimean Government the property issues, the formation of the budget and implemented a number of measures to stabilize the Crimean economy.

"Ukraine is holding a policy to restore historical justice as regards the deported peoples, and helps the return of Crimean Tatars to their historical motherland.

"Instead of fully using the possibilities to overcome the economic crisis, certain political forces of the Crimean Autonomous Republic have adopted a different course. They are clearly speculating on economic difficulties in Ukraine and other Commonwealth states. Even under these complicated conditions Ukraine finds it possible to cover the deficit of Crimean financial and material resources. Despite the objective realities, anti-Ukrainian and anti-state feelings are being stirred up among the Crimean population.

"The facts show that dangerous processes in the Crimean Republic not only have purely Crimean nature but also, to a considerable extent, encouraged by certain Russian political forces, whose actions are growing into clear interference in the Ukrainian internal affairs.

"In accordance with the Ukrainian Constitution and the current legislation, the Republic of Crimea is an integral autonomous part of Ukraine, which has broad rights in the sphere of the economy, the use of natural resources, ecology, culture and public life. Being an integral autonomous part of Ukraine, the Republic of Crimea is not a carrier of state sovereignty and cannot have political relations with foreign states.

"The Ukrainian Constitution is valid throughout Ukraine, including the Crimea. The Ukrainian territory is single, indivisible, inviolable and integral. The Republic of Crimea cannot have its own, separated from Ukraine, citizenship. Citizens of the Crimean Republic are also citizens of Ukraine. The autonomy cannot have its own armed forces.

"The press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers is authorized to state that the Ukrainian president and the Supreme Soviet will take all measures necessary to stabilize the Crimean political situation and ensure territorial integrity of Ukraine. The Ukrainian president will provide for unconditional observation of the Ukrainian Constitution and laws throughout territory of the state, including the Crimea as an integral part of Ukraine.

"The press service of the Ukrainian president and the Cabinet of Ministers calls attention to the fact that some Russian politicians and public figures are breaking the rules and norms of behavior on territory of a foreign state. In this connection any further attempts to interfere in the Ukrainian internal affairs will be resolutely stopped in accordance with the current Ukrainian legislation."

Parliament Requested To Explain Electoral Law Incongruities

WS1705101094 Kiev Ukrayinske Radio First Program Network in Ukrainian 0500 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] At the first session of the Ukrainian Supreme Council, many deputies pointed to certain incongruities between the legislation on people's deputies elections and the current Ukrainian Constitution. In this regard, Central Electoral Commission Chairman Ivan Yemets yesterday provided his explanations to the Ukrainian Radio and Television Company.

[Begin Yemets recording] Actually, there are many such incongruities between the Constitution and Electoral Law. First, in four constituencies, the elections were held with the participation of one candidate, since others had withdrawn their candidacies. Article 89 of the Constitution says that any number of candidates can be included in a ballot. Following is a characteristic example. In the 147th constituency of Donetsk's Artemivskyy rayon, two candidates—Chuprun and Panasovskyy—were running in the elections. Panasovskyy won 49.3 percent of the votes, and all other candidates won less votes. Chuprun withdrew his candidacy, and the remaining five people refused to run, realizing that they had no chance. What should be done in such a case? Where to find one more candidate, if there are none in sight? Another question is the implementation of Article 48 of the Electoral Law. Who runs in run-off elections? As you know, run-off elections have been scheduled in 112 constituencies in Ukraine. In 92 constituencies where the elections were held but none of candidates won the required number of votes—50 percent—those people cannot run again in the run-off elections. However, there are 20 constituencies in which the voters did not participate in the elections for some reason. The question arises as to whether those people who won in these constituencies can also participate in the run-off elections or not. The Central Electoral Commission has therefore asked the Supreme Council to provide its interpretation of these articles of the Electoral Law, and certain other articles, since there are many contradictions with the Constitution and other laws. This is why we have asked the Supreme Council to provide an interpretation of this law. [end recording]

Cabinet Creates Foreign Trade Concern To Promote Exports

WS1705142694 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] The Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers, proceeding from the President's Decree "On measures to liberalize Ukraine's export policies" (see UBN no. 19), adopted a resolution on 6 May to set up the Ukrvneshtorg (Ukraine's Foreign Trade) Concern to be composed of the state-owned Ukrvneshprom (Ukrainian Foreign Industry), Slavutych-Ruda (Dnieper Ore), Slavutych-Stal (Steel), Ukrtsvetprom (Ukraine's Nonferrous Metallurgy), and Ukrvneshkhimprom (Ukraine's Foreign Chemical Industry) foreign economic associations.

Ukrvneshtorg is designed to export produce (commodities and services) within the framework of the State Order and State Contract involving nomenclatures to be determined by the Cabinet of Ministers.

The State Contract's amounts were specified by the Cabinet's resolution, which was adopted in mid-March 1994.

Rolled ferrous metal, ths. t. [thousand tonnes]	4,600
Pig iron	1,070
Ferrous alloys, ths t.	150
Ferrous metal wastes and scrap, ths t.	150
Hardware, ths t.	150
Copper and items made of it, ths t.	30
Aluminum and items made of it, ths t.	50
Iron ore, ths t.	5,000
Ammonium, ths t.	100
Methanol, ths t.	115
Carbomide, ths t.	300
Salt, ths t.	300
Alcohol, mln. dl [million dekaliters]	2.0

The Ukrvneshtorg Concern's president is appointed by the Cabinet on the former's submission. Presently, Vadim Plotkin is its acting president. He is to register the Concern within a 10-day period.

Commenting on the resolution at UKRINFORM's request, Alexander Nasekan, the Industry Ministry's foreign economic relations agency superintendent, said the Ministry would, to a certain extent, take part in Ukrvneshtorg's activities. However, specific forms will be clear only after its statute has been drafted and approved.

The role to be played by the former so-called "special exporters" remains unclear. One is left to wonder, if the move was purposefully prompted by the director corps to make a show of supposedly rigid control under the Cabinet's pressure, or whether it should be interpreted as the government's step toward a more centralized system of effort distribution and sharing export incomes.

However, the details and underlying goals of the changes underway are likely to surface in a matter of days.

Cabinet Approves Production of Military Transport Aircraft

WS1705142794 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] A February resolution by the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers provides for serial production by the Kiev Aircraft Production Association, KAPA, of AN-70 military transport aircraft and AN-70T transport planes equipped with D-27 engines.

The aircraft order's break-down is 400 planes for Russia and 100 for Ukraine.

The Antonov research-and-development and production complex is supposed to start the AN-70 prototype's flight trials in the second quarter of 1994. The plane's stand trials were in January.

Negotiations are reported underway with France, Britain, and Pacific Rim nations to sell the advanced plane to them.

The AN-70 project is the collective brainchild of over 100 enterprises in Ukraine, Russia and Uzbekistan.

The Ukrainian and Russian governments signed an agreement on AN-70 serial production by the Dnepropetrovsk Yuzhny Engineering Plant (it used to manufacture space rocketry), and Russia's aircraft factory in Samara.

The D-27 engines, which were designed by the Progress bureau in Zaporozhye, are to be manufactured by Zaporozhye's Motor-Sich and Ufa's (Russia) engine manufacturers.

After a cost analysis, however, the Ukrainian Government decided to abandon the idea of placing the order for AN-70's with the Yuzhny manufacturers and put its stake on KAPA instead, which started preparations for AN-70 serial production together with the Antonov complex as early as 1997.

Concurrently, the government decided to relieve KAPA of its previous assignment, which involved manufacture of the AN-218 aircraft. The latter aircraft will be manufactured by the Aviastar production association in Ulyanovsk (Russia).

Russian Navy Admiral on Black Sea Fleet Division

WS1605081794 Simferopol KRYMSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 5 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Vice Admiral Aleksandr Ivanovich Frolov, people's deputy of the Crimean Supreme Soviet, by B. Glinskiy; place and date not given: "The Black Sea Fleet Is Holding Out Thanks to Russia"]

[Excerpt] [Glinskiy] Aleksandr Ivanovich, over the past two years, the destiny of the Black Sea Fleet has been sorted out. The Russian and Ukrainian presidents signed protocols in Yalta, Zavidovo, Moscow, and Massandra; they agreed on an urgent and honest resolution to the problem that worries our people. Impressive statements in the press and television followed these meetings. However, when the presidents returned home, their statements acquired another meaning and the protocols' clauses remained unfulfilled. What, do you think, is the reason for this?

[Frolov] We will soon celebrate the 10th anniversary of perestroyka, but the old guard still holds the power.

People cannot keep the administration in check. To prolong its existence, the powers-that-be exercise the meanest methods: They set the Ukrainian and Russian peoples against each other. These people have been living in peace for over 300 years. What is terrible is that the army is involved in political battles. Over 50,000 servicemen of the Ukrainian Armed Forces are stationed in the Crimea. The Crimean president's decisions are adamantly opposed. The young democracy is under the heel of bureaucracy.

[Glinskiy] Aleksandr Ivanovich, our editorial office receives many letters and phone calls. Crimean residents ask: What should we do? They voice concern over the situation around the Black Sea Fleet. You participated in the recent negotiations and I would like to know your opinion: Who is to blame for their failure?

[Frolov] I would not draw your attention to the details of the work, which was conducted by the delegations and groups of experts at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters. Mass media published a detailed report on this event. The participants in the negotiations adopted a resolution to divide the fleet. The agreements on the separate location and division of its infrastructure were not implemented. Instead, old bureaucratic tricks were used. The Ukrainian side used dual interpretation of the clauses of the Moscow agreement: The breakdown of the Russian-Ukrainian negotiations was prompted by nothing else but a regular political order from the bureaucracy during the campaign for electing Ukrainian president, setting up a new legislature, and, hence, a new government. Young generals use this high political wave for career purposes.

[Glinskiy] Was public opinion or the wishes of the local authorities considered at the negotiations?

[Frolov] By the time the Russian and Ukrainian delegations began working, Crimean President Yu. Meshkov and V. Semenov, chairman of the Sevastopol City Executive Council—who had their own opinion and stance on the issue—arrived at the Black Sea Fleet headquarters. For example, one in every four Sevastopol residents is directly or indirectly connected with the Black Sea Fleet.

Ukrainian Defense Minister V. Radetskyy, head of the Ukrainian delegation, categorically opposed the participation of the representatives of the Crimean and Sevastopol executive branches, even as observers. This is how military bureaucracy views the local authorities.

Public opinion is taken into account in civilized states. However, we have another approach. Bureaucrats, who never loved the people and only gave orders, currently do not want to take public opinion into consideration.

[Glinskiy] You know that the Army is maintained at taxpayers' expense. But our bureaucrats forget about this. Let us, for example, take the Ukrainian Navy with only three ships that are moored and do not go out to sea due to lack of fuel, ammunition, etc. At the same time, the Ukrainian Navy headquarters has eight admirals, over 500 officers and warrant officers! They have official cars, high expenses, and apartments. They are satisfied with their "duties." Billions of karbovanetses of people's money are spent.

[Frolov] It would have been incorrect on my side to speak about the military readiness of the Ukrainian Navy. However, there is no smoke without fire. The [Ukrainian] Defense Ministry has a voracious appetite, however, if wishes were horses, beggars might ride. Having, for example, taken control over two first-class military colleges in Sevastopol, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry simply cannot maintain them. Unique equipment is dismantled and buildings fall into disrepair. Cadets and teaching staff live in poverty. On the basis of these two colleges, a military-naval institute was established. Nothing came of this. Currently, they are speaking about setting up a military academy.

Ukraine has not been financing the Black Sea Fleet since last October. Not because it does not want to, but because the coffers are empty. I do not pin hopes on any replenishment in the near future.

The Black Sea Fleet is holding out thanks to Russia. It does not simply hold out on its own. I am a deputy fleet commander for combat training. Last year, the Black Sea Fleet ranked second in combat training in comparison to the Northern one. [passage omitted]

Edict Allows Foreign Vessels To Fly State Flag

AU1705150494 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 May 94 p 12

["Ukrainian Presidential Edict on Parallel State Registration of Foreign Vessels Used by Entrepreneurs" issued in Kiev on 25 Apr]

[Text] In order to attract foreign investments for the development of Ukraine's merchant fleet and in conformity with item 7-4 of Article 114-5 of Ukraine's Constitution, I resolve as follows:

1. To allow parallel state registration in Ukraine of foreign vessels used on the terms of bearboat [berbout] charter accord by entrepreneurs other than those representing enterprises with foreign investments.

2. To allow such vessels to sail under Ukraine's state flag after they are entered into Ukraine's State Registry of Shipping.

3. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers must adopt, within one month, Regulations on the Procedure for State Registration of Those Foreign Vessels that are used by entrepreneurs on the terms of bearboat-charter accord and to determine the size of tax to be levied on the charterer for the parallel state registration.

[signed] Ukrainian President L. Kravchuk

[dated] 25 April 1994

Finance Minister Explains Budget Policy

AU1805094694 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 14 May 94 p 3

[Interview with Ukraine's minister of finance Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych Pyatachenko by Serhiy Vlad; place and date not given: "Does The Payments Crisis Have Only Drawbacks?"]

[Text] When finance minister Hryhoriy Pyatachenko maintains that budget policy has had a considerable effect on the improvement of the inflation climate in Ukraine, it is difficult to disagree with his statement. Because the payments crisis has not only drawbacks, but, however paradoxical it may sound, it also has its pluses. It forces one to reduce budget expenditure as much as possible, which stabilizes the state's monetary circulation. Minister of Finance Hryhoriy Pyatachenko tells what came of this policy in the first quarter.

[Pyatachenko] As is known, budgetary receipts were in line with the structure of the plan for socioeconomic development in 1994 and had to account for about 40 percent of the total annual revenue. It was, therefore, necessary to take advantage of the Supreme Council's permission to grant credits amounting to 10 percent of quarterly expenditure.

During the first quarter, the budget received 67.5 trillion karbovantsi [K], including K8 trillion from the National Bank in the form of credits to cover the intra-annual gap between the receipts of revenues and the need to carry out expenditure. In the first quarter, the expenditure constituted K64.1 trillion. Thus, you can see that the revenue was K3 trillion 400 billion greater than the expenditure.

[Vlad] Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych, the budget did not receive all those revenues, which had been expected....

[Pyatachenko] The value-added tax came to K12 trillion 96 billion, or, to put it differently, to 110.6 percent of what had been planned. Taxes on the profits of enterprises contributed K13.5 trillion or 121.6 percent of what had been expected.

The situation is much worse with regard to the receipts of excise duty. It was expected that K4.3 trillion would be contributed, but only 1.6 trillion (36.5 percent of plan) was recorded. This is due to the fact that we established exceedingly high rates of excise duty on alcoholic beverages, television sets, and a number of other goods. This situation will change in the second quarter, because the rates have been lowered. The state must regain its lost ranking in product sales. Besides, we received more taxes on citizens' profits than had been planned, despite the considerable decline in production.

[Vlad] Not only in terms of prices, but also in terms of commodities....

[Pyatachenko] In terms of prices, everything is fine because the price factor has played its role, as well as the payment of much higher wages than planned, but you are, indeed, right about the commodities.

[Vlad] In the first quarter, the profit from the external economic activity was to amount K6 trillion, but in fact....

[Pyatachenko] K2.4 trillion, or 40 percent. Besides, the budget only received 10 percent of the capital earned through implementing the privatization program.

[Vlad] Despite the more or less satisfactory statistics you are quoting, the financing, on the part of the state, of the social sphere in the first quarter seems not to have stood up to criticism....

[Pyatachenko] We planned to allocate K13.3 trillion for the social protection of the population, but only allocated K7.9 trillion. Support for the state's sociocultural institutions was somewhat better....

[Vlad] What did defense industry expenditures amount to in the first quarter?

[Pyatachenko] It was expected that we would remit K4.7 trillion, but, in fact, it received only K2.4 trillion.

[Vlad] What can you say about crediting industrial enterprises from the budget?

[Pyatachenko] In order to give support to those enterprises that underwent a profound payments crisis, the National Bank issued a credit of K11 trillion for three months at an interest rate of 120 percent. However, this is outside the budget.

[Vlad] Everything that the budget failed to finance in the first quarter has already gone down the drain? Well, inflation....

[Pyatachenko] What we could not do for lack of time, we will catch up with in the second and third quarters.

[Vlad] Hryhoriy Oleksandrovych, in the past, budget expenditure was covered at the expense of credits and the credits—at the expense of budget receipts. Is this tactic undergoing a change?

[Pyatachenko] A radical change. This is already a strategy, rather than a tactic. We no longer grant credits. Financing from the budget is done exclusively within the limits of receipts. The National Bank's emission is in conformity with the "ceiling" of the increase in the gross domestic product.

Edict Creates Trade, Economic Missions

AU1705150394 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 11 May 94 p 11

[Unattributed report]

[Text] On 30 April 1994, the Ukrainian president signed the edict "On Trade and Economic Missions Within Ukraine's Diplomatic Delegations Abroad." In accordance with the edict, trade and economic missions will be created within Ukraine's diplomatic delegations abroad. They will represent and protect Ukraine's interests in the sphere of external economic activity in the relevant countries. Ukraine's Cabinet of Ministers has been authorized to ensure the implementation of measures for organizing the work of the trade and economic missions.

The edict approves the Regulations on the Trade and Economic Missions Within Ukraine's Diplomatic Delegations Abroad. These Regulations specify the main work and functions of the trade and economic missions, their structure, and procedures for financing and resolve the question of interrelations between the missions and ministries and other central organizations of Ukraine's state executive authority, and so on.

In view of the creation of trade and economic missions within Ukraine's diplomatic delegations abroad, Ukrainian Presidential Edict 313 of 17 August 1993 "On the Regulations on Ukraine's Trade Missions Abroad" has been invalidated.

Ministry Releases 'First-Ever' Data on Foreign Investments

WS1705140594 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] The Ministry of Statistics of Ukraine published on 6 May 1994 its first-ever data about foreign capital investment increments over the first quarter of 1994. According to the Ministry's press release, as of 1 April 1994, foreign capital investments in Ukraine totalled $180.5 million having increased by $66.7 million over the January-March 1994 period.

Canada topped the list of major investors (32.7 per cent of the aggregate amount), followed by Germany (11.6 per cent), the United States (11.1 per cent), Cyprus and Switzerland (4.2 per cent each nation), the United Kingdom and Poland (2.9 per cent each nation).

Russia topped the list of former Union nations, which invested in Ukraine (1.7 million US dollars, or 73.7 per cent of the former Union nations' total investments).

Other nations' investments in Ukraine's economy were much more sluggish and totalled $3.9 million by the first quarter's close, or just one-forty-fifth of the total investment amount. However, their first quarter increment amounted to 2.9 million dollars in the first quarter of 1994.

Ukraine's capital investments in the January-March 1994 period were channeled predominantly into economies of European nations (99 per cent of the total) with Austria having topped the list of recipient nations ($2.9 million).

The table below presents the first quarter's foreign capital investment break-down.

	(thousands of USD)	
	Amounts of foreign investments in Ukraine	Amounts of Ukraine's investments in other nations
Total	180,453.10	3,916.06
Including:		
A. Former Union nations, total	2,268.76	0.07
Including:		
Russia	1,673.15	—
Latvia	306.95	—
Estonia	251.30	—
Lithuania	21.60	—
Moldova	14.74	—
Other nations	1.02	—
B. Other nations, total	178,184.34	3,915.99
Including:		
Australia	4,605.98	—
Austria	15,034.53	3,332.21
Britain	5,243.29	—
Israel	5,127.41	—
Italy	4,239.63	—
Canada	58,988.99	—
Germany	20,991.46	—
Poland	5,192.57	86.92

Romania	12.00	146.00
USA	20,031.63	—
Turkey	526.51	124.00
Hungary	1,031.82	210.00
France	3,521.99	—
Switzerland	7,463.00	—
Yugoslavia	570.50	16.30
Other nations	25,603.03	0.56

Foreign capital investments' aggregate total is estimated by Ukrainian experts at between $1.2 and $1.5 billion.

Ukrainian enterprises with foreign investments, in particular, those located in Kiev, are basically engaged in trading and go-between activities (80 per cent of the total amount of enterprises). Product manufacture and rendering services are basic types of activities for respectively 15 and 5 per cent of the enterprises.

The Cabinet's Decree of 20 May 1993, "On the State Program for foreign investment attraction", provides the legal foundation for effecting foreign capital investments in Ukraine. Following the Decree's provisions, the Law on the State Program for foreign investment attraction was passed in December 1993 (see UBN no. 7/1994).

The State Program is designed to stimulate investments in large state-owned enterprises with preference given to 11 key branches of the national economy.

Ukraine's very immediate foreign capital investment requirements to cover just a few years to come are estimated at $5 billion.

The Ukrainian Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations is currently drafting a list of Ukrainian enterprises, which need foreign capital perfusions with specified amounts of investments, forms of cooperation and areas of activities. The list is supposed to be annually revised and complemented.

Oil, Gas Industry Changes After Kravchuk Decree Viewed

WS1705141094 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] On 13 May 1994 President Leonid Kravchuk signed a decree on establishment of the Ukrneftegaz (Ukraine's Oil and Gas) National Joint-Stock Company (NJSC) of a holding type.

On 14 May, the Ukrainian Cabinet of Ministers discussed a draft plan for NJSC stock placing.

Enterprises, which belong to the Ukrainian oil and gas industry, are supposed to be amalgamated in NJSC as the latter's affiliates through contributing their stocks to its authorized fund. These enterprises constitute a special group, for which the President's decree specified certain conditions involving their transformation into joint-stock societies ("On holding companies, which are set up in the process of corporatization and privatization", of 11 May 1994).

The Cabinet approved a decision to set up NJSC as early as 12 April 1994. However, its materialization will be possible only after the aggregate property, which belongs to the enterprises to be NJSC's stock-holders, has been evaluated. (For more details see UBN no. 14/1994).

Tentative estimates appraise it at over $22 billion (in 1992's prices). However, it is subject to great variation depending on evaluation approaches and methods and the number of affiliate enterprises to undergo the merger.

In the meantime, the decision on Ukrneftegaz's establishment has triggered ambivalent responses from the interested circles.

Prior to making the decision, top-placed officers of the State Committee for Oil and Gas repeatedly urged NJSC establishment as a national agent, capable of speedily resolving the crucial problem of Ukraine's indebtedness to Russia for its fuels supplied to Ukraine, as well as of accumulating enough means, foreign investments included, to develop the oil and gas industry. They did not conceal the fact that the National Joint-Stock Company would be a monopolist structure. Since there were no other options, the holding company idea had to be accepted. Nonetheless, in view of Ukraine's very peculiar mode of denationalization, which, among other things, provides for the State's invariably controlling parcels of stocks in all the supposedly denationalized enterprises, the little trivial peccadillo of monopolism on the part of the State per se, may be overlooked.

Since, as the State Committee for Oil and Gas maintains, the affiliate enterprises are supposed to retain relative independence on NJSC, they may well develop into the latter's competitors, in due time.

Contrary to this upper echelon mood, the grass-roots sentiment tends to doubt NJSC's expediency as a unified and integrated structure. As managers of enterprises under the Ukrneft (Ukraine's Oil) and Ukrgaz (Ukraine's Gas) associations (substructures of the State Committee for Oil and Gas) maintain, NJSC will likely channel the thus pooled means to targets, other than the enterprises' development, which will reduce to naught the generally laudable concept of the industry's denationalization and individual enterprises' privatization, as well as badly compromise their stabilization chances.

NJSC's inexpedience is further predicted on grounds, it will form yet another unnecessary administrative suprastructure among the none too few Ukraine's bureaucratic institutions.

Such misgivings and apprehensions are not altogether groundless, since the Cabinet's thinkers are rumored to be very busily engaged in masterminding yet another ministry specifically to exercise control over NJSC (along the lines of Russia's Ministry for Power and Fuels).

Presently, Ukraine's oil and gas industry has basically four levels of hierarchy: immediate producers, seven major pipe-line agencies, the Ukrgaz, Ukrneft, Ukrgazprom associations, and the State Committee for Oil and Gas on top of them. NJSC and probably the new ministry will likely make up as many as six levels.

Such a restructuring mode will likely result in renaming the old structures and setting up new administrative bodies.

As attentive observers maintain, it is hard to predict, which trend will prevail, since the two options are dictated by the involved parties' ambivalent and often clashing opinions, which make the resultant vector too dim and obscure.

Agreement on Oil Transit Tariffs Said Reached With Russia

WS1705141194 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] Russia's Ministry for Fuel and Power and Ukraine's State Committee for Oil and Gas are reported to have reached an agreement on tariffs for Ukrainian petroleum piping and transshipment services.

Thus, an earlier (December 1993) agreement may materialize, which provides for increasing Russian petroleum piping across Ukraine's territory to Central and West European nations from 5.5 million tons in 1993 to 8 million tons this year.

The issue of transit piping and transshipment tariffs involving the Odessan petroleum transshipment facility remains unsettled, though, same as Russia's schedule of export petroleum piping.

Ukraine has agreed to lower its averaged $3 per ton tariff, though no exact figure has been divulged. Nonetheless, as spokespersons of the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas maintain, the deal is mutually profitable.

Under the Russo-Ukrainian General Agreement the Koneks firm, which was co-founded by major Russian petroleum extractors, has been granted the exclusive right to export Russian crude petroleum and petroleum products.

Russia's Transneft joint-stock company is in charge of piping petroleum to Ukraine's border. The Russian joint-stock company agreed specific schedules of petroleum delivery to Ukraine's border with its Ukrainian partner, Ukrtransneft, which is in charge of further Russian petroleum piping across Ukraine's territory to the Odessan petroleum transshipment facility. (For more details see UBN no. 13/1994).

Besides, Ukrtransneft concluded additional contracts with foreign firms, engaged in Russian petroleum exports, in view of the Odessan transshipment facility's 15 million tons a year capacity.

Currently, Ukrtransneft has such contracts signed with Lukoil, Telf, Stanford and Galaxy.

Turkmenistan Said To Resume Natural Gas Shipment Via Russia

WS1705141494 Kiev UKRINFORM in English 1637 GMT 16 May 94

[From the "Business News Weekly" feature No. 20, 9-15 May 94]

[Text] As Mikhail Kovalko, chairman of the Ukrainian State Committee for Oil and Gas, tipped off in an interview to UKRINFORM's correspondent, Turkmenistan notified Ukraine on 7 May about resumption of its natural gas supplies to Ukraine.

However, the entire amount, which was piped from the Central Asian nation, has settled in Russia, according to the Ukrgazprom concern's dispatching service. Its factual piping from Russia to Ukraine is expected to occur by 17 May. In this way, daily Turkmen gas piping is supposed to average 75 to 80 million cu. m [cubic meters]. By that time, Ukraine's delegation is to finalize an agreement with the Russian Gazprom supplier on charges for Turkmen gas transit piping through Russia's territory to Ukraine's border.

The Ukrainian delegation was in Moscow on 15 and 16 May.

On 19 May Gazprom's delegation is expected to arrive in Kiev to negotiate this and other issues of mutual interest with the Ukrainian Government.

More likely than not, the Russian delegation will push for Russia's hand in Ukrainian joint-stock societies to be set up as a result of denationalization of Ukraine's oil and gas complex (in the context of President Kravchuk's decree on establishment of the holding-type National Joint-Stock Company).

Turkmenistan's announcement about gas supply resumption (if ever Turkmen gas reaches Ukraine) probably occurred quite unrelated to the problem of Ukraine's indebtedness to Turkmenistan for the latter's natural gas supplies, though it was precisely this reason that Turkmenistan mentioned, when it terminated gas supplies to Ukraine in mid-February.

So far, there has been no official confirmation of the "Republika" concern's repayment of Ukraine's debt, which intention was widely rumored in March (see UBN No. 16/1994), since the concern was authorized to do so by the Ukrainian Government. Moreover, on 5 April acting Prime Minister Zvyahilskyy complained that he could not contact Igor Bakai, the concern's president, and that the government did not possess money enough to repay the debt on its own.

Should Turkmen gas supplies prove regular, Ukrgazprom would stock them in underground storages, as well as natural gas amounts, economized by domestic consumers, to be utilized during the fall-winter heating period.

In this way, Ukraine could receive about 20 billion cu. m. of Turkmen gas (1994's original figure was set at 28 billion cu. m.). The issue of repayment remains open, however.

Russian natural gas supplies within the 6 through 13 May period exceeded the planned amount by 247.2 million cu. m. (they totalled 3,959.2 million cu. m.). Their daily amount averaged 565.6 million cu. m.

Ukraine's gas consumption during the same period amounted to 1,448.3 million cu. m. versus the expected figure of 1,847.3 million cu. m. with the daily consumption average of 906.9 million cu. m.

Belarus

Council Adopts Resolution on Export of Strategic Goods

LD1705153594 Minsk Belarusian Foreign Ministry Department of Information in Russian 1358 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The Council of Ministers of the Republic of Belarus has adopted a resolution "on the procedure for exporting strategically important goods." The document says that the export by Belarusian entities engaged in economic activity of strategically important goods that appear on the lists of the Russian Federation can be done if the entities engaged in economic activity register at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations of the Russian Federation and receive permission from the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations.

Trade Agreement With Iran Signed

WS1705112894 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1200 GMT 16 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Belarusian-Iranian Trade Agreement Was Signed"]

[Text] As BELAPAN has been told at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Uladzimir Radkevich, minister of foreign economic relations, signed a trade agreement between the Governments of Belarus and Iran. The agreement outlines the introduction of most favored nation status for both countries in their trade relations. The document, in particular, postulates the development of mutual investments, setting up of joint ventures, exchange of delegations of businessmen and entrepreneurs, and an exchange of information.

Russian Ruble May Be in Circulation in 1-2 Months

LD1605183394 Moscow Radiostantsiya Ekho Moskvy in Russian 1500 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Belarus Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich has said during a working visit to Borisov, that the Russian ruble could be in circulation in Belarus within one to two months. He reiterated that the union of monetary systems is necessary for taking the economy of Belarus out of its present crisis.

Civilian Commission Cites Violations in Signature Campaign

WS1705132994 Minsk DOBRY VECHAR in Belarusian 12 May 94 p 1

[Report by Ales Knyazyuk: "Do Executive Bodies Violate the Law?"]

[Text] The Civilian Control Commission has issued a statement regarding the signature campaign for Belarusian president. The document states that from the very beginning, executive bodies clearly demonstrated their antidemocratic nature. The Civilian Control Commission has evidence of direct violations of the "Law on Elections of the President of Belarus" and human rights by executive bodies, starting with the Cabinet of Ministers. In connection with this, the commission has filed a protest and left the task of reporting the facts of violations of the law and human rights, as well as the antidemocratic activities of state bodies, to the international community.

Situation in Army, Cooperation Viewed

WS1705103094 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 12 May 94 p 2

[Interview with Valeriy Pavlov, chief of the Council of Ministers Office for Coordinating the Activities of Administrative Bodies, by A. Makarov; place and date not given: "I Believe in 'The Good Hereafter' of the Belarusian Armed Forces"]

[Text] Not long ago, the State Secretariat for Fighting Crime and National Security was transformed into the Council of Ministers Office for Coordinating the Activities of Administrative Bodies. The very fact of this transformation as well as tasks facing the newly formed structure have already been discussed in the Belarusian press. Our correspondent has asked Chief of the Office Valeriy Pavlov to speak on the steps planned by the government to eliminate the difficulties that worry the people in uniforms.

[Pavlov] A normative act is to be adopted soon stipulating that those servicemen who served 20 or more years in the Army receive apartments while in active service. While this used to be a mere wish and a kind of declaration by both the Council of Ministers and the Defense Ministry, we now believe that this declaration should be provided with a legal footing. To achieve this goal, housing construction will be continued at the expense of the government and will involve foreign investments; credits will be granted to retired officers. The 9 billion rubles obtained from selling surplus arms will also be spent on implementation of the housing program for servicemen in 1994.

Aside from this, as we all know, compensations for food rations were increased as of 15 April. In May, the office will draft a resolution on changing salaries paid for military ranks. The government has requested that we review the issues of medical care, improve the norms of servicemen's allowances of food and clothing.

[Makarov] Nevertheless the planned measures will hardly bring our living standards close to those in the neighboring states.

[Pavlov] It is hard to compare the economic situations in Belarus and Russia—the comparison would definitely be to our disadvantage. However despite this, the state is doing everything in its might for the Army.

I do not deny that we still have certain officials who tend to compare incomparable things. For example they suggest replacing two or three regiment exercises with personnel work in the economic sector. One should understand that every man and every state structure should be engaged in their business. If we stop holding exercises and reduce the scope of planned combat training, the Belarusian Army will change likewise.

[Makarov] How do you treat those forces in the Republic that promise to pour riches from "the horn of plenty" as soon as they come to power?

[Pavlov] I would ask them to answer just one question: How are they going to finance those promises? Unfortunately there is no source other than the state budget. The latter, incidentally, has its limits.

[Makarov] Speaking of the eternal sore point—that of money—what should the Armed Forces expect from the unification of the monetary systems of Russia and Belarus?

[Pavlov] The unification of monetary systems will allow us to maximally integrate our efforts in the spheres of military construction, material supplies for the Army, and improvement of our scientific research. The current artificial exchange rate of Belarusian and Russian rubles does not permit carrying out these strategic tasks. Moreover, defense enterprises are overstocked and their products are not competitive because of excessive prices.

Of course, we will receive a real chance to more easily rearm and re-equip the Belarusian Army; more servicemen will acquire rare professions in Russia. A decrease in prices for power resources will provide for full implementation of the program for combat training of troops.

[Makarov] However the Republic's Armed Forces are comprised of people who suffer many hardships....

[Pavlov] This is why immediately upon joining the single ruble zone, the wages of Belarusian officers will be reviewed. The wages of our officers will not be lower than those of Russian ones. We will also try to correct certain drawbacks that we have in the system of payments for the military. It is no secret how insignificant is the difference in wages paid for military ranks and jobs. Very often officers working with personnel are paid the same salaries as those who do not have to occupy themselves with test-range exercises or spend nights in the barracks. We are going to suggest that those officers who have commanded subunits ranging from company to division for a long time are paid certain bonuses.

We will also review post differentials for servicemen on combat duty, servicemen who serve far from oblast cities, under difficult conditions, in remote units. Of course, we will not have differentials similar to those paid in the Far East or in polar regions simply because there are no places with similar conditions here in Belarus, but salaries of the military will be targeted for review.

[Makarov] When will people feel the tangible results of all this? The transition to the ruble zone may take a long time.

[Pavlov] We have already gotten down to work and have completed some 30 percent of it. In fact, two out of our four departments have been "shoveling" Belarusian and Russian legal acts dealing with officer service, comparing, and thoroughly analyzing them. Everything that depends on us, we are doing right now.

[Makarov] Once the monetary systems are unified, will officers going abroad on vacation be entitled to travel allowances, as was the case in the past?

[Pavlov] An agreement between the Belarusian and Russian Defense Ministries is being prepared for signing, in accordance with which Belarusian servicemen will be entitled to travel allowances on the territories of ruble zone states. We should keep in mind that more than 35 percent of our officers and warrant officers have relatives in Russia. The system of treatment in recuperation and holiday centers will also be reviewed.

[Makarov] Speaking at the Baranovichi House of Culture on 3 May, Stanislaw Shushkevich said that retired officers had not created material wealth, while the share of their pensions in the total pension fund, unlike the share of civilians' pensions, is incommensurably higher than their contribution. According to Shushkevich, Russia should pay pensions to the retired officers who used to serve in the Soviet Army. How would you comment on this?

[Pavlov] I believe that those statements do not deserve any comment. To know all the hardships of military service one should move with his family thousands of kilometers to new places of service every couple of years and be the only breadwinner in his family. Army life should not be discussed at meetings held at breweries.

Unfortunately, a majority of our politicians regard the liquidation of the Army and revision of bonuses for the military as the primary way to increase people's welfare.

[Makarov] But frankly, do you believe that our Army will be strengthened and that it has a future? Officers seek termination of service, graduates of military colleges prefer civilian life.

[Pavlov] Not only do I believe in the good hereafter of the Army. I am sure that the Belarusian Armed Forces will manage to overcome the current problems. The state will spare no efforts to support its defenders and make military service a respected profession. There are all grounds for such optimism. The point is that the forming of an economic union with Russia and the signing of the CIS collective security treaty permit a cardinal revision of the issues of the development of the Belarusian Army. The implementation of these documents will put an end to the Army's self-isolation, which in fact amounted to continual degradation. The issues of developing military science, supplying the Army with modern equipment, training of personnel, and many others will be resolved on the basis of integration with Russia, proceeding from the unity of defense interests. As early as this summer, as stipulated by an appropriate agreement, Belarusian formations and air-defense units will have a chance to hold field firing and intensive training of gun squads at Russian test-ranges.

I am fully confident that the fate of our Army—just as our economy, our people, and all of Belarus—depends on how fully we are able to restore what we have thoughtlessly ruined. A union with Russia gives us a chance to do this. It is sad that the candidates for Belarusian president do not seem to understand this.

Indiscipline Worsens in Armed Forces

LD1705104394 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] The number of cases of so-called nonregulation relations between servicemen in the Belarus Army is growing at a threatening rate. Procurator General Vasil Shaladonaw was forced to state this sad fact at the latest meeting of the republican procuracy collegium. Over the past year alone the number of fights between soldiers increased by 47 percent and the number of servicemen involved in these obscene acts by 55 percent. Two servicemen have been killed.

Withdrawal of Russian Bomber Regiment Reportedly Begins

WS1805103194 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Unattributed report: "On the Withdrawal of Russian Troops from Belarusian Territory"]

[Text] BELAPAN has learned that the Sevastopol heavy bomber air regiment of the Russian Armed Forces began its withdrawal from Belarusian territory on 17 May. Five TU-22 aircraft left the air base of the Machulishchi garrison, in Minsk Rayon, and were moved to a storage base in Saratov Oblast [Russia].

Army To Resume Air Defense Training in Russia

MK1805070294 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 May 94 p 1

[Report by Valeriy Kovalev: "Belarusian Missile Workers Hope To Conduct Field Firing in Russia"]

[Text] For two years now, units and subdivisions of the Belorussian [Belarusian] Army Air Defense Force, which are equipped with long-range antiaircraft missile complexes, have been deprived of an opportunity to make combat launches. There are no corresponding test sites on the Republic's territory. When there was just one army, Belorussian Air Defense units went to testing grounds in Russia. Yet since the "nationalization" of armies the road there has been closed.

According to Lt.-Gen. Valeriy Kostenko, commander in chief of the Belorussian Air Defense Force, this summer Belorussian missile workers can again practice combat firing in Russia. Our countries, he said, do not intend to destroy the integral air defense system.

Plan Approved in Case of Lithuanian Nuclear Plant Accident

WS1605101294 Minsk BELAPAN in Belarusian 1300 GMT 13 May 94

[Unattributed report: "Program for Building Communication Sites Was Adopted"]

[Text] The Belarusian Cabinet of Ministers has approved a program for the building and upgrading of municipal facilities and roads in Braslav Rayon, Vitebsk Oblast, to provide for the safety of the population in case of an accident at the Ignalina nuclear power plant [Lithuania]. The program will be implemented in 1994-98.

Moldova

Trade Unions Protest Price Increases

AU1605172994 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1900 GMT 13 May 94

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 13/5/1994—The threefold increase in prices for utilities was made "without the Government taking efficient measures for paying the salary arrears and before revising the minimum salary," states the protest signed by a group of Moldovan trade unions. The protest demands suspension of the decision on raising utilities prices; otherwise the trade unions "will mobilize people to protest in front of the government building" and proceed to more energetic protest actions such as a manifestation in the Great National Assembly Square in Chisinau. The presidium of the Federation of Independent Trade Unions (FITU) issued today a similar protest saying that the increase of the utilities prices is nothing "but a mockery." The FITU "demands immediate suspension of the decisions on increasing these prices" and adds that "ignoring these demands will provoke social instability." Sources from the Federation say that the FITU Presidium had to make this decision under the pressure of several branch trade unions. Previously, the FITU had launched the idea of abstaining for six month from protest actions. Today, during the press conference of the Moldovan Agrarian Democratic Party, Moldovan deputy speaker Dumitru Motpan stated that measures have already been taken to suspend the implementation of the increased tariffs.

Increases Suspended

LD1705144894 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1125 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Valeriy Demidetskiy]

[Text] Chisinau, 17 May (ITAR-TASS)—Fearing a social explosion, the Moldovan Cabinet today suspended for ten days a local authority decision to increase the cost of municipal services. It was decided last week to increase these almost threefold.

One of the main reasons was Moldova's chronic indebtedness for fuels imported from Russia and other CIS countries. The republican federation of independent trade unions sharply criticized the price rises, with the federation's leaders threatening to organize mass demonstrations. Trade union leaders say that the majority of the population today cannot pay for housing and services even at the old prices, and can hardly make ends meet because of growing unemployment and low wages.

Within the next 10 days a government commission hopes to find a way out of the situation, though this very day the government informed citizens that Moldova owes the Russian Federation Gasprom joint-stock company about 200 billion rubles for gas alone.

Joining CIS No 'Panacea' for Economic Ills

PM1705091194 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 17 May 94 First Edition p 6

[Report by Lyudmila Feliksova: "Moldavia Enters CIS Amid Screams From Opposition"]

[Text] Kishinev [Chisinau]—Moldavia [Moldova] has entered the CIS amid screams from the opposition about the loss of independence and a new form of imperial oppression. But the opposition can hardly now exert influence on the decisions adopted by the ruling Agrarian majority. Especially since everyone is aware that the people who are screaming most loudly about the loss of the republic's independence are those who are least interested in it. They are mainly people who favor unification with Romania and who regard Moldavia's joining the CIS as another major obstacle to realizing their secret dream.

However, the question of the CIS should not be viewed solely in black and white. It is far more complex. Among its opponents are also people who are not dying to join Romania, but who are afraid that a powerful country like Russia will dictate its political and economic will and turn Moldavia into a satellite. "That is the mentality of small countries," I was told by economist A. Muravskiy, an Agrarian deputy. "They differ from large countries in their pathological sensitivity to any encroachment on their rights."

The so-called "Westerners," seeking a panacea to all ills in the opposite direction to the east, also take a suspicious view of the CIS. But many economists believe that the Republic will be unable to break into the Western market in the near future. For instance, during the first two months of the year imports from the wider world were quadruple the amount of exports. Moreover, the bulk of the deliveries were paid for in hard currency.

Paradoxically enough, it is easier for Moldavia to get closer to the West via the eastern market. Experts think that Western investors regard it as a kind of bridge in that direction. So, however you look at it, the CIS may be a case of bleak or longed-for necessity, but necessity nonetheless.

Based on the results of the first two months of the year Moldavia's foreign trade turnover with CIS countries totaled around 75 percent, with Russia remaining the main player. It accounts for almost 62 percent, followed by Ukraine (8.5 percent) and Belorussia [Belarus] (2.3 percent). But here too the balance of trade is by no means in Moldavia's favor. Imports exceed exports by 137 million leu, of which gas shipments from the Russian Federation make up the lion's share.

Joining the CIS means hope for Moldavia—according to the corresponding article of the treaty—of freer movement of goods, services, money, and manpower, coordinated money-credit and tax policy, and more acceptable customs duties....

However, what is for some people a long-awaited and for others an unwanted decision will not per se instantaneously ease the situation. That is already clear to even the staunchest supporters of the Commonwealth—people who have gotten over the period of naive romanticism, when it was thought that all that was needed was to sign the treaty and the economic wheel would turn toward stabilization. The political train has gone a long way, crushing the old economy. Time will tell whether it has gone forward or backward, but the fact that different realities have taken shape is indisputable. Just as something else is also obvious: A new economy has not so far emerged to go with them. At the moment losses are being calculated. Moldavia has been left without an industry. Whereas a few years ago it accounted for 67 percent of the budget, last year the figure was only 9.3 percent. And the slump has not stopped. Orientation on the agro-industrial complex alone is depriving the republic of any hope of ranking as a developed country. Even the CIS itself still looks pretty vague and unsteady. So it will hardly prove possible rapidly to restore the severed ties. And it is the loss of these ties that Moldavian Premier A. Sangheli sees as one of the main reasons for the current crisis, added to the vast material losses that the Republic sustained owing to its refusal to ratify the treaty in the first place. This refusal not only cost Moldavia a large sum of money, but also brought about the early resignation of the former corps of deputies and the government. The election winners have come to power; and rapidly signed the treaty. The first step has been taken. It is still hard to say whether they have won or had victory thrust upon them, although a policy of interest and compromise does seem to be replacing the policy of confrontation in Moldavia. However, it is too early to say whether this is the end of the story. There is probably more to come.

Kazakhstan

Kazakh, Russian Special Services Sign Protocols

LD1705121094 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1101 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Ignatov]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty] 17 May TASS—"The special services of Kazakhstan and Russia have never worked against each other, nor will they do it in the future," Director of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service Sergey Stepashin told a press conference here after signing several documents on cooperation between the special services of the two countries. Stepashin added that if Russia did not help set up counterintelligence services in the CIS countries, this would have been done by others. "The Russian Federation is least of all interested in this," Stepashin said.

An agreement on cooperation and interaction between the former Russian Security Ministry and the Kazakh KGB was signed for the first time in March 1992. However, as it was noted during the press conference, no mechanism for its implementation was worked out and the important document remained paralysed. It was of a purely declarative nature. The protocols first signed in Moscow and now in Alma Ata [Almaty] give it concrete substance.

The heads of the Russian Federal Counterintelligence Service and the Kazakh National Security Committee have signed protocols in Alma Ata [Almaty] on cooperation in combatting international terrorism, in ensuring the safety of civilian air traffic, in conducting economic counterintelligence operations and combatting smuggling, as well as protocols on joint actions to combat drug trafficking and corruption, to make effective use, in mutual interests, the operational and technical facilities of the radio-counterintelligence units and to ensure the security of special military and other international railway carriages. It was noted during the press conference that such broad cooperation was undertaken for the first time in the CIS countries.

Replying to an ITAR-TASS question, Stepashin said that his current visit to Alma-Ata [Almaty] was planned in advance and was in no way linked with the signing in Dzhambyl on 12 May of the agreement on operational interaction between the special services of Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Kyrgyzstan. "Kazakhstan is an independent state and it decides itself whom to cooperate with," Stepashin added.

This statement was confirmed by sat Tokpakbayev, chairman of the Kazakh National Security Committee. The special services of Kazakhstan, he noted, have established close contacts with their colleagues in the United States, Great Britain, France, FRG, and several other countries. They are constantly coordinating their actions to combat international terrorism. This work is not directed against any third country.

Stepashin and Tokpakbayev made no bones of the fact that there were quite a few problems yet in the difficult work to coordinate the actions of the special services of their two countries, because it was quite a new area of cooperation. The heads of the special services of Russia and Kazakhstan are sure that all the problems, cropping up on their way, will be settled, because there is a mutual desire to do it.

Nazarbayev Praises Documents

LD1705131694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1147 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Almaty 17 May TASS—President Nursultan Nazarbayev of Kazakhstan has highly praised the documents on cooperation, signed here today by the special services of Russia and Kazakhstan.

"I do not doubt," he said, receiving director of the Russian Federal Intelligence Service Sergey Stepashin at his residence here, "that the developing cooperation between the security services of the two countries, which is steadily growing stronger, will further strengthen friendship and good-neighbourly relations between Russia and Kazakhstan, will set a good example for close partnership between the industrialists, financiers, and businessmen of the two countries."

Impact of New 'Loyal' Parliament Viewed

PM1605161194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 12 May 94 p 4

[Article by Vladimir Ardayev: "New Kazakhstani Parliament: Drama or Farce?"]

[Text] Alma-Ata [Almaty]—It may be that the current process of reform of the legislature in Kazakhstan will go down in history as something of an enigmatic phenomenon. Let me remind readers that, unlike Russia, Kazakhstan has done without tanks and rallying crowds, but immediately after the October events in Moscow an "epidemic" of self-disbandment suddenly broke out in Kazakhstan, affecting soviets at all levels—from village soviets right up to the Supreme Soviet—and witnessed the sudden demise of the latter. The president and government categorically rejected suspicions that they were somehow involved in this process, even though its organized character left no room for any such doubt. So then, to use the well-known aphorism of Red Army man Sukhov, "the East is a subtle thing...."

In mid-December the Supreme Soviet ceased to exist, having transferred its legislative powers to the president and scheduled elections for a new supreme legislative organ of power for the beginning of March; this new body was conceived as a compact parliament (177 deputies, two fewer than in the former Supreme Soviet) working on a professional basis. President N. Nazarbayev himself described the significance and purpose of what had happened in the clearest terms: The Supreme Soviet, which had basically been elected during a different historical period and which contained all the old party nomenklatura, from the head shepherd to the rayon committee secretary, had outlived its usefulness, just like Soviet power itself with its arcane system of soviets at all levels. What was needed was a united and integrated legislative organ capable of single-mindedly and competently providing a legal base for the reforms policy in Kazakhstan.

It is hardly worth describing in detail all the ups and downs of the elections which have just taken place. Alternative political forces contested seats in parliament on a legal basis for the first time, but realistically the opposition's opportunities during the elections were extremely limited. Consequently the parliamentary majority was made up of deputies from the so-called "state list," i.e. deputies nominated by the president and the government in conjunction with representatives of the National Unity Alliance, the political organization supporting the president. Generally speaking, practically the entire new parliament is yet again made up of people from the nomenklatura. Some 90 percent of the deputies are leaders of various kinds of government, state, and quasi-state structures: Ministries and departments, local administrations, state enterprises, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, law-enforcement organs, and so forth. The president has gotten what he knows to be a loyal parliament, whose objective qualities, however, mean that it is able to act as a kind of hidden opposition, if not to the president himself then at least to the reforms policy he is pursuing.

Meanwhile, the "open" political opposition which finds itself in a definite minority is making its presence felt in vocal fashion. Some 15 parties and social organizations of various stripes—communists and socialists, social democrats, national patriots and the Slav movement "Harmony," which opposes them—have joined forces and established the "Republic" coordinating council headed by S. Abdildin, former speaker of the self-disbanded Supreme Soviet. "Republic" has proclaimed a course of establishing a "constructive opposition" in parliament and has declared its objective to be the formulation and protection of a program to ensure Kazakhstan's survival—in the opinion of coordinating council members, the state is going to rack and ruin: Its economy is collapsing, the population has been brought to the brink of penury, and the political reforms are leading to the establishment of a dictatorship.

[Text] Although familiar communist terminology predominates in the opposition's statements and their panicky tone clearly betrays the desire of political failures to have their revenge, as is so often the case there is no smoke without fire—the socioeconomic and domestic political situation in Kazakhstan is indeed becoming more and more worrying. Since the second half of last year, when illusions about the possibility of preserving the ruble area came crashing down and Kazakhstan set about introducing its own national currency, its economy has gone into a steep dive. The decline in production has accelerated and the number of enterprises that have either stopped working or are working on minimum capacity is nearing the critical mark—according to official statistical data, by the start of this year alone 732 enterprises and organizations with a total workforce of over 350,000 people had stopped work either partially or completely. And the situation is steadily worsening. The payments deficit is growing, and this year there are plans to cover it exclusively by means of loans from international organizations.

The commodity production crisis is in turn whipping up inflation in the young Kazakhstani currency. The speed of inflationary processes is growing—during the six months it has been in existence, the tenge has seen its value fall six times, i.e. average monthly inflation has reached the 100-percent mark. In this respect the new currency has already outdone the old. Even the old-style ruble, which was withdrawn from circulation in Russia last August and which Kazakhstan continued to use until mid-November, did not plunge so rapidly at first.

The government has not only failed to take any measures to achieve monetary stabilization, it has even taken extremely some illogical steps which have actually exacerbated the inflationary situation. It has no choice in the matter, however: Its budgetary resources for keeping prices in check are exhausted. At the same time the increase in prices has not only become evidence but also a cause of the devaluation of the national currency, and the process has acquired an avalanche-like and uncontrollable character. It is a vicious circle: Each new fall in the tenge's exchange rate provokes a price hike, including an increase in the price of energy sources, which in turn jacks up the price of goods and services even more, which in turn fuels the next inflationary spiral....

The president's staff and the government are not shouldering the budget expenditure cuts themselves. A decision made recently by N. Nazarbayev to separate the presidential and the Cabinet of Ministers staffs demonstrates on the one hand that the head of state is as it were dissociating himself from the activity of the government he heads, which is likely to result in the rapid replacement of its leadership—this was also confirmed by N. Nazarbayev's speech at the first session of parliament in which he was sharply critical of the Cabinet of Ministers, saddling it with the blame for exacerbating the crisis processes. On the other hand, however, the separation of the two staffs means their duplication, and consequently the duplication of expenditure on officials' pay, which is already fairly substantial.

Attempts are being made to cut expenditure, but squarely at the population's expense. The decision of the president and the government at the start of the year to abolish all previously established social benefits and replace them with monetary compensation caused a furor—within the space of a month in inflationary conditions these compensatory amounts had turned into something like alms. When thousands of elderly people organized a noisy rally outside the parliament building on the opening day of the first session of parliament, N. Nazarbayev issued an edict reinstating the benefits—but only for the disabled ex-servicemen and war veterans. Invalid children and workers and similarity disabled people continued to be deprived of their benefits. For example, a blind person is currently obliged to buy a streetcar ticket, and someone without the use of his legs must pay his phone bill in full and fill up his car with gasoline at the standard, very expensive price. Another example: Under the president's edict, the new arrangements, which have only just been adopted regarding taxation of individuals' income even envisage levying income tax on...unemployment benefit.

As far as income itself is concerned, by the time the session started its work the president's edict had stipulated that the minimum wage and old-age pension in the Republic should be increased by 150 percent to 100 tenge a month—even according to official exchange rates when the edict was published this does not even amount to $5 or 9,000 Russian rubles. This is the minimum. Accordance to the government codes, the maximum cannot exceed 10 minimums.... Despite price levels that are no lower than in Russia.

Basically, ever since the Republic's Executive Branch has subsumed the Legislative Branch, the situation has significantly worsened. A whole tangle of problems does in fact require competent and major intervention. Of course, it is laughable to hope that the advent of a new parliament—however strong it might be—would in itself be able to change anything right away, but at any rate there is a chance that skilled collegial revision by the deputies of the situation that has developed and the activity of the government and president, and their corrections to that activity, could inspire hope of finding a way out of the crisis. On one condition, of course—provided parliament turns out as it was intended: A competent and professional legislative organ.

The start of the first session's work exceeded all expectations. First of all, the parliamentary leadership is mainly composed of representatives of the president's "team." The 55-year-old journalist, writer, and experienced ideological worker Abish Kekilbayev was elected speaker; in the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee he was head of the Interethnic Relations Department, and recently he has worked as a state counselor in charge of the same issues in the government.

Second, as is normally the case, parliament began with organizational questions. The work was thorough—10 days of work were required to elect leaders, to form commissions and committees, and also to examine issues regarding backup for the deputies' activities.

Following heated debates, the deputies awarded themselves ministers' salaries with a 50-percent additional amount to cover expenses connected with performing their deputies' duties, despite having ensured that many communal services such as transportation and communications are provided for them free of charge. In addition, they enjoy official apartments, personal cars, free removal expenses enabling 120 deputies to relocate to accommodations in the capital, health benefit in the form of a lump sum equivalent to two months' salary, and individual offices.... And when the initial stage of the first session of the new parliament had finished, the deputies dispersed for six weeks' vacation.

The second round of the session opens 13 May. It is hard to make any precise predictions as to what it will be like, but judging by the results of the first round, the president and government's hopes of forming a loyal parliament in Kazakhstan composed of state functionaries who are experienced in their work have been completely realized: They have gotten what they wanted, so to speak.

If everything subsequently follows the same scenario, it is not hard to predict how events will develop. In conditions of virtual one-man rule by the president (and hence one-man responsibility), when the domestic political and socioeconomic situation deteriorates further it will not be an effective solution simply to replace the government cabinet. Taking new and unpopular measures at a time when living standards are steadily worsening and problems of an irreversible nature are cropping up (stoppages by more and more enterprises and increased unemployment owing to the fact that practically no new jobs are being created) could provoke a negative reaction among more and more sections of the population. And this could fuel an increase in the prestige of opposition structures—as has already happened in Russia, where V. Zhirinovskiy's fascist party "unexpectedly" achieved a majority at the polls. Another danger faces Kazakhstan in this respect: Either political forces of a pro-communist stripe will come to power, or, more likely, the present executive branch will strengthen its position little by little until it establishes a real dictatorship. Both alternatives are equally unpalatable.

Productivity of Machine-Building Concern Down

LD1805093494 Almaty Kazakh Radio Network in Russian 0800 GMT 18 May 94

[Summary] The production output of the agricultural machine-building concern, Aktyubinskselmash, is 62 percent of the output from the same period last year. The main cause of its trouble is insolvency of its partners both in Kazakhstan and the CIS states.

Tajikistan

Tajik Opposition Forces Attack Russian Border Guards

LD1705130194 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1225 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Galina Gridneva]

[Text] Dushanbe 17 May TASS—A powerful missile attack was launched today on the 11th post of the Moskovskiy borderguard unit, guarding the Tajik-Afghan border. The attack, launched both from the territory of Afghanistan, controlled by General Kozi Kobir's 55th Afghan Infantry Division, and from mojaheed positions in the rear of the Russian borderguards, lasted from 0800 to 1100. The enemy gun emplacements were smashed by Russian retaliatory blows. There were no casualties among Russian servicemen. The losses of the Tajik opposition have not been reported, ITAR-TASS learned today from military sources in Dushanbe.

It was stressed in this connection that the irreconcilable Tajik opposition, entrenched in the northern provinces of Afghanistan, became active again from 15-17 May. Several of its attempts to break through the positions of the Moskovskiy and Pyanj borderguard detachments were thwarted. The redeployment of armed groups of militants, supporting the Islam movement for the revival of Tajikistan, from the Hunduz and Tahor provinces of Afghanistan to the Afghan part of Badakhshan is continuing. Some of the armed groups are being massed opposite the Shuroabad sector of the Tajik-Afghan border, near the positions of the Moskovskiy borderguard unit, and the others—in the immediate proximity of the Pamir sector of the border.

According to a trustworthy military source in Dushanbe, the purpose of these redeployments is to break through into districts, bordering on the Gorno-Badakhshan autonomous region of Tajikistan, in order to launch further operations against the government forces of the Republc. The source said that all these attempts were futile. The Russian borderguards and the national defence forces of the republic have taken additional effctive measures to strengthen the Tajik-Afghan border and the highland areas of the Republic adjoining it.

New Peacekeeping Forces Commander Appointed

PM1705101194 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[Report from roundup of reports by correspondents and ITAR-TASS: "Why Does General Need Bayan?"]

[Excerpt] A new commander of the coalition peacekeeping forces has arrived in Dushanbe—Colonel General Valeriy Patrikeyev. In his 56 years the new commander in chief has managed to graduate from two military academies and General Staff higher academy courses. In serving the fatherland, he has traveled the whole country from West to East. Before being appointed to Tajikistan for the past four years Patrikeyev has commanded the Transcaucasus Military District so that, as he says, he has peacekeeping experience. [passage omitted]

Turkmenistan

Higher National Income, Output Predicted in 1994-96

PM1705131194 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 17 May 94 p 1

[ITAR-TASS report under the "From the Chronicle of These Days" rubric: "High Rate of National Income"]

[Text] The national income in Turkmenistan is to increase at least 45 percent over three years, and the increase in industrial and agricultural production will reach 30 percent. This is envisaged in the "Basic Forecast Indicators of Turkmenistan's Economic Development for 1994-96," which were proclaimed by President Saparmurad Niyazov and adopted at a session of the highest organ of people's power. The program that has been drawn up proposes the accelerated development of the fuel and energy complex, the food complex, and the consumer complex, the saturation of the market with commodities, and the strengthening of the national currency.

Uzbekistan

Karimov Wants Japanese Technology in Exchange for Resources

LD1605165794 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1608 GMT 16 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo 16 May TASS—Uzbek President Islam Karimov, who arrived in Japan on his first visit on Monday [16 May], is confident that his four-day visit to Tokyo will enable to create a reliable basis for the development of economic ties between the two countries.

In an interview with ITAR-TASS Karimov said that "Uzbekistan has tremendous resources of raw materials, and Japan, in turn, possesses the most advanced modern technologies. "It is in the interests of both countries to join our resources," Karimov said.

He pointed out that no bilateral political agreements would be signed during the visit. According to the Uzbek president, a joint statement would be adopted as a result of his talks with the Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata. The document will contain the main principles Japan and Uzbekistan will abide by in bilateral relations," the Uzbek president said.

Addressing representatives of Japanese business circles on Monday at a meeting arranged by the Uzbek-Japanese economic committee, Karimov laid the emphasis on the fact that Japan and Uzbekistan, whose trade turnover in 1993 amounted to $58 million, have all prerequisites for the development of economic cooperation.

However, Karimov refrained from commenting on the problem of high taxes levied on foreign enterprises in Uzbekistan, which Tokyo believes to be one of the main factors impeding Japanese investments into the Uzbek economy.

In his speech the Uzbek president pointed out that Japan, like Uzbekistan, is an Asian country and there are many factors uniting the people of the two countries. "We have great respect for the purpose-oriented people of Japan and we want to learn from them," the Uzbek president said.

Upon completion of the meeting a ceremony of signing an agreement on cooperation between the Uzbek-Japanese Committee for Economic Cooperation and the Japanese-Uzbek Economic Committee was held. The document proclaims the intention of both sides to promote the development of economic cooperation between the two countries, carry out an exchange of experts and look for ways of resoloving problems impeding the development of bilateral economic relations and submit corresponding reports to the Government of Uzbekistan and Japan.

Japan's Hata, Karimov Issue Statement

LD1705154294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1510 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo 17 May TASS—President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan, who is on his first visit here, and Japanese Prime Mnister Tsutomu Hata have issued a joint statement, stipulating basic principles of relations between Uzbekistan and Japan. The document was signed directly before the Uzbek-Japanese high-level talks.

The joint statement, in particular, says that Uzbekistan "expresses the hope" that Japan will be granted the status of a permanent member of the UN Security Council. Tashkent and Tokyo proclaim the intention to closely cooperate within the U.N. framework and in other international organizations for the sake of peace and security in the world, the document stated.

According to the document, Uzbekistan has pledged to contribute to ensure stability in central Asia, and also carry out large-scale privatization aimed at a transition towards the market economy. Both parties supported the enhancing of a political dialogue between the two countries, and noted that this will help stregthen and activate their relations.

After adopting the joint statement, foreign ministers of Uzbekistan and Japan signed a joint document, reaffirming that both sides regard still valid all agreements between the former Soviet Union and Japan which concern Uzbekistan.

Speaking at a ceremony of signing the both documents, Japanese Prime Minister Tsutomu Hata expressed confidence that relations between the two countries, which trace their beginning to the great Silk Route era, will develop and strengthen.

"The signing of the bilateral documents, in our opinion, has signalled the beginning of great cooperation between our republic and Japan," President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov noted.

Dialogue Unlikely To Go 'Beyond Symbolism'

PM1705110194 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 3

[Report by Sergey Agafonov: "Karimov Also Decides To Visit Japan"]

[Text] Tokyo—Islam Karimov, president of sovereign Uzbekistan, together with his wife Tatyana Akbarovna and accompanying officials, has arrived in Tokyo on an official visit. This is the first-ever top-level contact between Japan and Uzbekistan—previously this country simply did not exist.

He is the third president from the former Soviet expanses of Central Asia to visit Japan in the last few months. The season was opened by the visit to Tokyo by Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] President Askar Akayev in April last year; this April saw the arrival of Nursultan Nazarbayev.

The Uzbek leader's itinerary is one of sightseeing tours, although it is also replete with the necessary and traditional protocol events—a reception and dinner with the emperor, short talks, and lunch with the prime minister. There is a meeting with business circles, and a long and varied tour of the sights. In fact, the working part of Karimov's four-day visit to Japan is essentially restricted to one event. Bilateral contacts have so far been scanty, and there is virtually nothing of substance to talk about.

The Japanese knew in advance that the guest would be asking for money and other aid in various forms, while talking about the Republic's potential wealth. Incidentally, everyone willingly recognizes Uzbekistan's raw-materials potential, but there seems to be some hesitation about providing material confirmation of this in the form of investment, loans, and participation in joint-venture projects. Several Japanese business delegations have visited Uzbekistan of late, studying market conditions and assessing Uzbekistan's potential to meet Japanese requirements—but no large-scale program for Japanese participation in boosting Uzbekistan has yet been arranged. Of course, the first-ever visit to Tokyo by an Uzbek president will not go unmarked, and there will be some economic "souvenirs" to take away, but people in the know believe that the Japanese-Uzbek dialogue during the summit trip will probably not go beyond symbolism. It is believed behind the scenes in Tokyo that the phrases "it is important to start small and not rush" and "a long journey begins with a single step" will be to the fore in the upcoming Japanese-Uzbek talks.

The Japanese media are preparing their audience in their own way for the important Uzbek guest's visit. Thus, for instance, the newspaper ASAHI featured a long article by Yusuke Matsuzaki, who is the senior and the only Japanese adviser to the Uzbek Vneshekonombank [Foreign Economic Bank]. The adviser openly notes that in the run-up to his pension he was looked upon as "unnecessary garbage" in Japan, but in Uzbekistan he can still show what he is capable of at age 60. The adviser talks about the promising plan to produce teflon frying pans in Uzbekistan with Turkish assistance, and writes about loans from the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, on whose distribution the Uzbek Vneshekonombank is currently working. Another newspaper—MAINICHI—published a leader to mark Karimov's arrival, reporting on Uzbekistan's natural resources, its proximity to Turkey, and the fact that it is important for Japan to correctly develop relations with the former Soviet Central Asia. And the newspaper noted that, although diplomacy should be determined by cool calculation and proceed on the basis of Japan's own interests, in the case of Central Asia in general and Uzbekistan in particular they should make allowances and permit a bit of romance to enter the equation. The romance, in MAINICHI's opinion, lies in the fact that Uzbekistan lies astride the old "Silk Road"—so expanding the dialogue with it will be romantic and touching.

Militia Arrests Human Rights Activists in Kazakhstan

PM1705134994 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 17 May 94 p 2

[Report by Marina Lebedeva: "Human Rights Conference Not Yet Open, But Arrests of Participants Already Under Way. These Are Being Carried Out by Uzbek Militia on the Territory of Sovereign Kazakhstan"]

[Text] The international conference on human rights organized by the Russian-American Bureau for Human Rights will start work in Alma-Ata [Almaty] 17 May. But at least two invitees will not be taking part; they are Talib Yakubov and Vasilya Inoyatova, activists of the Uzbek people's movement Birlik.

Yakubov was arrested in the apartment of relatives 10 May. Vasilya Inoyatova, whose name is still on many people's lips over last year's trial (she was accused of impugning the honor and dignity of President Karimov by her poetry) was arrested while still on Kazakhstani territory, in the settlment of Chernyayevka, 12 May.

The car in which Inoyatova was traveling was stopped by pursuing Zhigulis. Inoyatova and those accompanying her were taken to the city militia administration in Tashkent where they underwent a five-hour interrogation, conducted by Deputy Chief Khudaybergenov. All, except Inoyatova, were released with a warning to sever all links with members of Birlik.

Reports about the arrests of Yakubov and Inoyatina came from the U.S. human rights organization Helsinki Watch and the Society for the Defense of Human Rights in Central Asia.

After reporting these arrests, human rights campaigners noted that there has recently been a growing number of unlawful actions by the Uzbek militia and special services on the territory of other sovereign states, the authorities of which are taking no serious measures whatsoever. Last year, at the end of a similar conference, Abdumannov Pulatov, the well-known defender of human rights from Uzbekistan, was picked up right in front of the Kirghiz [Kyrgyz] militia. He was saved from prison only thanks to the intervention of human rights workers of many countries, journalists, and statesmen from the United States.

The Uzbek writer Yadgar Obid has been beaten up twice in Moscow in the last six months; however, the culprits have not been caught or punished.

So what, then, can the participants in the conference in Alma-Ata expect? Will they be able to discuss the theoretical problems connected with human rights or will they in practice have to defend their own rights straightaway, as it were? Yesterday we received a new report: Another two people invited to the conference, Mikhail Ardzinov, deputy chairman of a human rights society, and Mamura Usmanova, chairman of the Society of Free Women, Tumaris, have been arrested in Tashkent.

Karimov on Arrests, Threat of Fundamentalism

LD1805084394 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0818 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Vyacheslav Bantin]

[Text] Tokyo 18 May TASS—President Islam Karimov of Uzbekistan declined to comment on press reports about the arrest by Uzbek police of Talib Yakubov and Vasiliy Inoyatova, activists of the popular movement Birlik in Uzbekistan. Replying to an ITAR-TASS question at a press conference in Tokyo the president said he has "no knowledge about these persons," and added that "this question is not in the president's competence."

According to press reports, the arrested activists were expected to take part in the international conference on human rights organised by the Russian American human rights bureau in Alma-Ata [Almaty], Kazakhstan. Russian Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigoriy Kerasin announced on Tuesday [17 May] that in its relations with all foreign countries, including commonwealth member-states Russia would defending the activity of all human rights organisations as a necessary condition of the normal functioning of any democratic society. [sentence as received]

"If the arrest reports are true to fact, it will be necessary to find out to what degree this conform to the provisions of the Commonwealth Charter and the CIS Declaration of Human Rights, as well as to relevant documents of the United Nations and the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe which provide for the strict observance of human rights and freedoms," the Russian official said.

As concerns political freedoms in Uzbekistan, President Islam Karimov told ITAR-TASS that "all political parties which now exist in Uzbekistan will take part in the forthcoming parliamentary elections in December. The law on elections which we have promulgated has successfully passed critical assessment in the Conference for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the United Nations.

On Islamic fundamentalism, Islam Karimov declared that Tashkent is "fully aware of the danger it poses to Uzbekistan. We are categorically against any ideological expansion, including in the form of Islamic fundamentalism," the president pointed out. "We see a safeguard against the pressure on the part of the champions of Moslem fundamentalism in integrating Uzbekistan as soon as possible in the world community of democratic states," he stressed.

Armenia

Azeri Signing of Cease-Fire in 'Nearest Future' Predicted

NC1705191894 Yerevan SNARK in English 1334 GMT 17 May 94

["Azerbaijan Will Sign the Agreement on Karabakh Conflict Settlement in the Nearest Future"—SNARK headline]

[Text] Moscow, 17 May (SNARK)—The negotiations in Moscow on the Karabakh conflict's settlement were interrupted on a stage, which requires revision of several points on the date and place of the peace-keeping forces deployment.

Farkhad Agamalyev, press-attache of the Azerbaijani Embassy in Russia, informed of it SNARK in his interview.

He also said that the first point of the agreement on the cease-fire from 0000 of 17 May is observed by the both sides. "Now the Azerbaijani delegation leaves for Baku to clear up several military questions and we think the agreement will be signed in the nearest future," declared Mr. Agamalyev.

As it is known, the heads of the Defence Ministries of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Karabakh should have signed today in Moscow an agreement on Karabakh conflict's settlement under the mediation of Russia, but the Azerbaijani delegation refrained from signing the document.

Defense Minister Satisfied With Moscow Meeting

LD1805063694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0632 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 18 May 18—Armenian Defence Minister Serzh Sargsyan has expressed satisfaction with the results of the meeting of the heads of the military establishments of Russia, Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Nagorno-Karabakh, which ended in Moscow on Tuesday. Together with other members of the armenian delegation, he returned to Yerevan late at night on 17 May.

Interviewed by ITAR-TASS at the Yerevan airport, the minister stressed that the meeting was on the whole normal. "Our desire to achieve peace in the region was echoed by the Russian side, which did everything it could as mediator to settle the Karabakh conflict," Sargsyan stated. "God knows that the Azeri decision to sign the offered document or not did not depend on us," he added.

Touching on the Azeri delegation's stand at the Moscow meeting, the Armenian defence minister expressed the view that the Azeri side would not be able to refuse for long to sign the document and would finally quite soon. "The current refusal is a temporary obstacle," Sargsyan believes. "The peace-making process in the region will without doubt continue. There is no alternative to it," the Armenian defence minister stated.

Spokesman Rejects Azeri Charge on Disrupting Talks

LD1705202894 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1835 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Press-Secretary of the Armenian Foreign Ministry Aram Safaryan dismissed a statement by the Azeri side that talks on the settlement of the Karabakh problem with participation of defense ministers of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Commander of the Nagorno-Karabakh Army mediated by Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev were disrupted by Yerevan's fault.

Earlier on Tuesday [17 May] a source in the Azeri Embassy in Moscow claimed that Armenia insisted on considering the status of Nagorno-Karabakh along with the withdrawal of troops from seized Azeri territories.

Press-secretary of the Armenian president Levon Zurabyan declined to comment on the situation around the talks until the return of the Armenian delegation from Moscow.

Parliament Concerned Over Theater Explosion in Tbilisi

LD1705175694 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1643 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan 17 May TASS—A statement of the Armenian parliament presidium circulated here today expressed concern over the terrorist act in the Armenian drama theatre in Tbilisi last Sunday [15 May].

The statement says that this encroachment upon ethnic Armenian residents of Georgia is not the only one. It provokes alarm over the safety of the Armenian population of Georgia.

The parliament heads hope the Georgian authorities will do their best to find the criminals in the near future and severely punish them, as well as work to prevent similar actions in future. The Armenian parliament leaders expressed sympathy with the explosion victims and their families.

Georgian State Head Eduard Shevardnadze telephoned Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan today in connection with the incident. He assured the Armenian leader that the Georgian authorities will do their best to reveal the terrorists and punish them, sources at the Armenian president's press service report.

A statement of the Armenian Foreign Ministry has been made in connection with the terrorist act. The ministry accused of the incident "the forces hampering regional stabilization and striving to turn the Karabakh confrontation in a regional conflict and involve Armenia in the war." In his turn, Levon Ter-Petrosyan described the terrorist act as a provocation against the traditional Armenian-Georgian friendship.

Financing Work on Nuclear Power Station Still Unsettled

LD1705193194 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1632 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] A joint Russian-Armenian commission set up to coordinate works on bringing on line the Armenian nuclear power station considered financing the project and the progress in the station's state analysis in Moscow this week.

The Russian Atomic Energy Ministry told INTERFAX that the date of the station's new launch was unclear as financing the works remained unsettled.

However, Yerevan is to entirely finance all works on the station carried out jointly with Russia in accordance with the 17 March treaty.

According to the treaty, Russia committed itself to take part in examining, reactivating and bringing on-line the station's main installations as well as additional activities to ensure its safety. Moscow also said it would supply the station with nuclear fuel.

In late April, Armenian Vice Prime Minister Vigen Chitechyan said his republic had completed preparatory works on the station closed down in March 1989 under heavy public pressure which followed the December 1988 earthquake. Yerevan plans to launch the station by the end of this year. Taking into account Armenia's highly unstable seismic conditions, the station must withstand an earthquake of force nine on the Richter scale. To reactivate the station, a minimum of $70 million is needed.

The republican government decided to bring the station on-line again as it used to cover more than 40 percent of the republic's energy consumption as far back as a year ago. At present, power is mainly produced by hydroelectrical stations which are capable of covering only 25-30 percent of the demand.

Azerbaijan

Guliyev Defends Bishkek Move; Police Measures Against Media

NC1705130794 Baku TURAN in English 0921 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku (16 May) TURAN: On 14 May the speaker of Parliament, Rasul Guliyev, spoke on national TV. As was earlier reported, the opposition accused him of "betraying interests of Azerbaijan" when he signed the Bishkek protocol. He rejected these accusations and said that he signed the Bishkek protocol "since there is no other way out of the situation."

At the same time, Guliyev accused the opposition of attempting to seize power and warned that they will bear a responsibility for that.

The statement by Rasul Guliyev coincided with an assault by an armed group on the headquarters of the National Independence Party, the closure of the independent television channel, "BMT," and an order from Baku's mayor Alakhverdiyev for evacuating "AZADLIG," the opposition newspaper,

From their premises [sentence as received]. It should be mentioned that all the abovementioned organs of the media and parties have been severely criticizing Rasul Guliyev over the past days due to his signing of the Bishkek protocol.

Beginning on 14 May, the police took the control over the building where the AZADLIG editorial offices are located (for the third time this year) and warned the employees that they must evacuate the building. The leadership of the newspaper was not presented officially represented with an order by Baku's mayor.

The authorities are demanding the evacuation from the premises by the following organizations: TURAN News Agency, Azerbaijan's Centre for Democratic Reforms, Centre for Strategic Researches, AZADLIG newspaper and Polyglot International Centre. All the abovementioned organizations are independent and nongovernmental.

Report on Baku Mayor Closing Newspaper Office

NC1705144194 Baku TURAN in English 0921 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku, 16 May (TURAN)—On the evening of May 15, the police vacated the building of the AZADLIQ editorial office which was controlled for the entire day.

The previous day, the police told the employees of the newspaper that Baku's mayor, Rafael Alakhverdiyev, issued a decree stating that the editorial office had to leave the building.

On May 15, State Advisor, Gabil Guseinli, told Deputy Ibragim Ibragimli that "the matter concerning the removal of the newspaper was adopted by the government and I have nothing to do with it".

Meanwhile, on May 15 the authorities revoked their own resolution and the police left the building. On the same day an employee in of the Presidential staff told TURAN's correspondent that "the resolution concerning the removal has been annulled". However, Baku's mayor also issued a decree concerning the evacuation by the independent TURAN agency, Centre for Strategic Researches, Polyglot International Centre, Centre for Azerbaijan's Democratic Reforms, AZADLIG editorial office from the building.

On May 14 the closure of independent television channel, BMT, was reported which caused severe criticism.

On the next day, 16 of Azerbaijan's political parties condemned the authorities' activities and demanded an end to such illegal activities.

It is difficult to say why the authorities changed their position. But it is clear that the actions by the current leadership are becoming more and more unreasonable and may lead to heightened tension.

Combat Situation in Karabakh's Rayons Updated

NC1705153794 Yerevan Radio Yerevan in Azeri 1330 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Azerbaijan's military forces fired on the Armenian defense positions in Mardakertskiy Rayon on the night of 15 May. The incident took place after a two-day lull in the fighting. As reported earlier, the Armenian side refrained from returning fire.

Although an agreement has been reached in Moscow to end the fighting, the situation in the confrontation areas between the Nagrono-Karabakh Republic [NKR] and Azerbaijan continues to be unstable. Azerbaijan National Army subunits have violated the cease-fire agreement from time to time. The NKR Defense Army Headquarters Press Service has disclosed that Azerbaijan's military units fired on the Armenian positions in the northern part of Mardakertskiy Rayon and the central areas in Agdamskiy Rayon last night and this morning. One NKR military man was wounded. However, the defense units continued to heed the NKR Defense Army Headquarters' order not to return the enemy fire. The same source also disclosed that the situation on the other parts of the NKR front line has been relatively peaceful.

The situation in the border region between Armenia and Azerbaijan was peaceful last night and this morning that is, as of noon today.

Peace and security must prevail on the border between the two republics. Regardless of the tension between the two sides, the relations between the two republics must be restored. Our people lived as neighbors in the past; they will continue to live as neighbors in the future. It is common knowledge that close neighbors are [words indistinct] than distant countries. Therefore, it is time to end the hostile activities between the two sides.

Armenian Statements on Prospects for Karabakh Denounced

LD1705170294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1525 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku May 17 TASS—Azerbaijan denounced Armenian statements that Nagorno-Karabakh can be proclaimed a republic and join Armenia in future and qualified such plans as a "rude distortion of the essence of the negotiating process, an actual appeal to the resumption of combat activities."

The press service of the president of Azerbaijan said in a statement on Tuesday that "the sides directly involved in the conflict should by their practical activities and statements promote the creation of a political atmosphere for a further development of the negotiating process which has just begun."

Also on Tuesday Azerbaijan refused to sign a cease-fire protocol in Moscow and its defence minister left for Baku for additional consultations.

But the press service of the leader of Azerbaijan said the "republic stands for a just and peaceful settlement of the conflict, as well as for constructive Russian proposals."

"Azerbaijan proceeds from the fact that the mentioned efforts and proposals should be implemented in the framework of generally-recognised norms and principles of international law, first and foremost, in the context of ensuring the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of frontiers of the Republic of Azerbaijan," according to the statement.

Reasons for Refusal To Sign Cease-Fire Protocol

LD1705174294 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1558 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS correspondents Sevindzh Abdullayeva and Viktor Shulman]

[Text] Baku 17 May TASS—"The position of Azerbaijan remains unchanged. It stands for the settlement of the Karabakh problem in the CSCE framework", Vafa Gulidze, the republican state adviser on foreign policy, told TASS on Tuesday after Azerbaijan refused to sign a ceasefire protocol brokered by Moscow between the warring sides.

He rejected mass media reports that Azerbaijan had accepted only the Russian plan according to which Russian peace-keepers are to be deployed in the zone of conflict. "These allegations are absolutely groundless and can be assesseed as pressure on the republic", Gulidze said.

"We are not against cooperation with Russia, however the Armenian-Azeri conflict has acquired an international character and can be resolved only in the framework of the CSCE of which Russia is a member", he stressed.

According to Gulidze, neither the president, nor the foreign minister, nor he himself have seen the document discussed in Moscow.

At the same time he recalled that Azerbaijan had agreed on Monday with the document proposed by the chairman of the CSCE Minsk Group for Karabakh which envisages a ceasefire, disengagement of troops and a simultaneous withdrawal of Armenian forces from occupied Azeri territories.

Armenians have in words agreed with the proposal too, but did not sign it explaining that they are unaware of the results of the Moscow meeting of defence ministers of Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Russia, according to Gulidze.

Defense Chief Says Cease-Fire Being Observed

LD1705203994 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1837 GMT 17 May 94

[Report by AZERTADZH correspondent Gekchekkhanum Tagiyeva—TASS]

[Text] Baku 17 May TASS—"Having complete authority to sign the final protocol offered at negotiations in Moscow, I did not do it only because some aspects required additional studies," Azeri Defence Minister Mamedrafi Mamedov, who headed the Azeri military delegation to Moscow negotiations of Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, told AZERTADZH today.

In his words, the document can be signed only after the Azeri specification of some items of the protocol, whose major provisions have been basically coordinated.

Mamedov said the Azeri troops staying in the Armenian-Azeri conflict zone have been ordered to cease fire despite the fact Azerbaijan has not signed the final protocol. The cease-fire agreement is being observed by both sides, he stressed.

Aliyev Tells Reception for U.S. Envoy of Settlement Hopes

NC1705132794 Baku TURAN in English 0921 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku (May 16) TURAN: "We are on the threshold of a very important stage in the settlement of the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict," said President Aliyev during yesterday's reception for a delegation from the US Department of State headed by the Coordinator for the Newly Independent States (NIS), James Collins.

President Aliyev mentioned that Azerbaijan stands for a settlement of the conflict on the basis of the principles of the CSCE. He said that the representative of the CSCE Minsk Group must take part in Moscow's meeting of Defense Ministers between Azerbaijan, Armenia and Nagorno-Karabakh, which is scheduled for today.

As far as the status of Nagorno-Karabakh is concerned, President Aliyev said that this matter must be discussed in the context of territorial integrity and inviolability of Azerbaijan's state borders.

Touching upon the matter of the oil contracts, President Aliyev said that "the talks concerning the joint development of Azeri oil-fields have entered their final stage."

According to several sources, an oil contract with the consortium of Western firms will be signed by the end of December. According to TURAN, the consortium of western companies is not ready for signing the contract in the near future.

Kondratyev Named Russian Troop Commander

NC1705184094 Baku TURAN in English 1556 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku, MAY 17 (TURAN)—Russian Deputy Defense Minister, Colonel General, Georgiy Kondratyev, has been appointed the Commander of the Russian military contingent in the Armenian-Azerbaijani conflict zone.

Georgiy Kondratyev is one of the Deputy Defense Ministers who is close to Pavel Grachev and who can be called a player on his team. In the Defense Ministry he was called "a hero of the October events". According to his colleagues, it was he who headed all arrangements concerning the neutralization of the Russian Parliament supporters. Earlier Kondratyev was in command of the Turkestan Military District and in 1991 he created the first CIS military commercial centre which was engaged in the sale of military automobiles and tractors. Kondratyev is fond of sport, film and military music. He is also a specialist in emergency situations.

According to military sources, Kondratyev sharply differs from Generals Gromov and Mironov who held in high respect among the officers and generals of the Russian Army.

A year ago, Kondratyev headed the operation concerning the withdrawal of Russian troops from Georgia. However, this fact caused Shevardnadze's dissatisfaction since he was against Kondratyev's appointment. Later, the Georgian party said that instead of a withdrawal of troops from Abkhazia, Kondratyev supplied supporters of Ardzinba with military hardware and ammunitions. At the same time, Kondratyev acted as coordinator between the Russian Defense Ministry and Abkhazia's military commandant.

Reactions to Proposed Stationing of Russian Troops Cited

NC1705183194 Baku TURAN in English 1556 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku, May 17 (TURAN)—"The agreement which was signed yesterday by the Defense Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia as well as the Commandant of Nagorno-Karabakh in Moscow threatens Azerbaijan's independence", the Deputy Chairman of the Popular Front, Asim Mollazadeh, told TURAN's correspondent. Mollazade said that the stationing of Russian troops will mean the restoration of Moscow's military control over

Azerbaijan. The second danger is that the United Nations and the CSCE will be out of the game concerning the settlement of the conflict.

The leader of National Independence Party, Etibar Mamedov, said that "it is impossible to call troops of another state to Azerbaijan without permission from the Parliament. We will oppose the return of the Russian empire to Azerbaijan".

"The Defense Minister has no right to sign a document concerning the deployment of troops of another state in the country since it is among his duties. That is why I think that this agreement has no legal force", the leader of Musavat Party, Isa Gambar, told TURAN. State Advisor, Gabil Guseinli, speaking with a correspondent from AZADLIG said that "we are speaking about CSCE observers with an additional military contingent and not about Russian troops. Moreover, that extra contingent will submit itself to the CSCE observers".

Caspian Sea Oil Contracts Signed With Iran

NC1705132494 Baku TURAN in English 0921 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Baku (16 May) TURAN—In the third decade to the Iranian sector of Caspian Sea will be directed the Azerbaijan State Oil Company's vessel for geologic and exploration works under the Iran Oil Company's order.

Exploration will be conducted on the base of first two signed contracts between SOCAR and Iran State Oil Company about conducting geologic and exploration works by Azeri specialists.

SOCAR's representative told TURAN, that first contract, the value of which is $435,000 envisages the conducting of engineer geologic researches for the setting of self-lifting floating drilling equipment.

The second contract, value of which is $3.$ millions [figure as received], envisages the seismic exploration works in order to find out and to prepare the structures under deep exploration drillings.

Georgia

Ioseliani Comments on Cease-Fire Agreement With Abkhazia

LD1705151494 Moscow INTERFAX in English 1312 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Head of the Georgian delegation at talks on a settlement in Abkhazia, Dzhaba Ioseliani, told INTERFAX that the main aim of the agreement on a cease-fire and troop separation signed in Moscow on 14 May was "setting up a security zone for the return of refugees with the help of peace keeping forces."

He said that this zone would include territory from the Western Georgian city of Zugdidi to Gali—a regional center in Southern Abkhazia.

He said that the peace keeping forces (2,500 to 3,000 men—INTERFAX) will enter the "security zone,", which will be set up after the withdrawal of Georgian and Abkhaz formations from the Inguri river, by the end of May. At the beginning of June refugees will start to return to the Gali region. He said that 88 UN observers based in Abkhazia would also control the situation in the security zone and that an increase in their numbers was currently being discussed. "No Georgian or Abkhaz troops will be in the security zone," he emphasized.

Ioseliani also reported that mobile patrol groups made up of up to 400 peace keeping soldiers would be formed in the Kodor canyon, from which Georgian and Abkhaz troops must withdraw.

He stressed that all these are initial moves and that talks would continue and a plan worked out for returning all the refugees to Abkhazia.

He said that at the end of this week military representatives of Georgia, Abkhazia and the CIS would meet. The meeting will establish the exact position of the peacekeeping forces.

Chita Duma Assailed for Not Signing Civic Peace Accord

LD1805061894 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0614 GMT 18 May 94

[Report by ITAR-TASS Andrey Fomin]

[Text] Chita 18 May—The decision of the leaders of the Chita Region Duma to refuse to sign the agreement on civic peace has met with little support in Transbaikalia, the leaders if some political parties and movements said in a joint statement today.

The leaders of Regional Federation of Trade Unions, the Confederation of Creative Unions and the Committee of Soldiers' Mothers resolutely condemned the refusal and called on the Chita Duma to reconsider their stand without delay.

The statement urges the leaders of the Supreme Body of Representative Power in Transbaikalia to sign the agreement designed to stabilise Russian society and give it a chance of peaceful reforms.

Aliyev Visit 18 May, Trade, Economic Agreement Viewed

NC1705112094 Yerevan SNARK in English 1439 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Tbilisi, 16 May (SNARK)—The Azerbaijani President Geydar Aliyev will visit Georgia on 18 May.

SNARK was informed of it in the Georgian Foreign Ministry.

It is supposed that there will be signed an agreement on trade-economic cooperation between two sides and a political communique.

Georgian officials hope that the Aliyev's visit will promote to solve a number of problems, connected with the fuel delivery from Azerbaijan.

Interest in Cooperation With Black Sea Countries

LD1605172994 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] Eduard Shevardnadze, head of state and chairman of parliament, today met (Ivanciu Nikolae Zulianu) deputy chairman of the Parliamentary Assembly of the Economic Council of the Black Sea Basin Countries and chairman of the International Commission of the Romanian Parliament.

The head of state assured the guest that Georgia, no less than other countries, is interested in cooperation with the Black Sea basin countries. The view was expressed that the above-mentioned community [as heard] will be a guarantor for the economic security of the council's member-states.

An agreement was reached at the meeting about an exchange of official visits by the head of the Georgian state and the president of Romania.

Shevardnadze Issues Edict To Combat Drug Problem

AU1705132094 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 22 Apr 94 p 1

["Edict of the Georgian Head of State on Urgent Measures To Strengthen the Struggle Against Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business"]

[Text] The difficult socioeconomic situation that exists in the Republic of Georgia, the deterioration of the crime situation, and the weakening of border controls have contributed to the spread of drug addiction in the country. It is also significant that the drugs mafia in different countries is showing a particular interest in Georgia as a country that is convenient for the transit of drugs. An internal market is arising in Georgia for the production and sale of drugs derived from plants. The spread of drug addiction among minors and adolescents is arousing particular concern and drug addiction among women is also a serious problem.

In order to plan, coordinate, and control measures aimed at the comprehensive prevention of drug addiction in the Republic of Georgia, the implementation of a single state policy in this sphere, and to combat drug addiction and the illegal circulation of narcotic substances, a government commission has been formed under the chairmanship of Georgian Deputy Prime Minister I. Menagharishvili. The commission is made up of representatives of the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and scientific, health, and youth organizations.

In order to strengthen further the struggle against drug addiction and the drugs business, it is decreed:

1. To accept the proposal of the government commission and to create a national bureau for combating drug addiction and the drugs business on the basis of the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs Department for Combating Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business.

2. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs is to ratify the rules and structure of the National Bureau for Combating Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business within a period of 10 days.

3. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Justice, along with the Ministry of Internal Affairs, is to prepare within one month draft legislative acts on controlling the legal circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances, on combating their illegal circulation, and on conferring the right to the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs National Bureau for Combating Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business to sell valuables confiscated by a decision of the court in this category of cases.

4. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Communications is to provide the service with modern means of communication by 1 May of this year.

5. The Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and the Ministry of Internal Affairs are to provide the National Bureau for Combating Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business with a material and technical base within a period of one month.

6. In order to protect the rule of law in matters concerning the struggle against drug addiction and the drugs business and exercise supervision a department is to be created within the Republic of Georgia Procurator's Office to supervise cases concerning the illegal circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

7. The Republic of Georgia Customs Department is to create a corresponding service in order to strengthen organized control over the transfer of narcotic and psychotropic substances at customs checkpoints. To report the results to the Government Commission for Combating Drug Addiction and the Illegal Circulation of Drugs.

8. The Republic of Georgia Ministry for Health Protection is immediately to create a republican inspectorate to control the legal circulation of narcotic and psychotropic substances.

9. The Republic of Georgia Ministries of Internal Affairs and Health Protection are to provide a register of [those involved in] the drugs business and users of drugs for nonmedical purposes and ensure the effective implementation of Georgian Head of State Decree 32 of 5 February 1994.

10. The Republic of Georgia Television and Radio Broadcasting Corporation and the Republic of Georgia Information and Publishing Corporation are to cooperate closely with the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Internal Affairs National Bureau for Combating Drug Addiction and the Drugs Business and the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Health Protection Drug Research Institute in order to disseminate efficiently the appropriate information on television and in the press.

[Signed] E. Shevardnadze

Estonia

U.S. Defense Officials Arrive for Visit, Meet Leaders

LD1705171494 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 1600 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Charles Freeman, assistant secretary on regional security at the U.S. Defense Department, is visiting Estonia today. The U.S. visitors had a meeting with Prime Minister Mart Laar, Defense Minister Indrek Kannik, Foreign Minister Juri Luik, and Defense Forces commander Major General Aleksandr Einseln. Freeman said at a news conference that during the day a substantial amount of work had been done in Estonia. He appreciated the structure of the Estonian defense system and noted that the United States supports comprehensively Estonia's integration with NATO. Indrek Kannik said at a news conference that issues to do with the Partnership for Peace program had formed the focus of their discussions as well as U.S. assistance towards the formation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. Kannik noted that Estonia is now able to obtain military equipment also from the United States, an option that did not exist previously. Tonight President Lennart Meri will also receive the U.S. visitors.

Defense Minister Explains Reasons For U.S. Officials' Visit

LD1705151194 Tallinn Radio Tallinn Network in Estonian 0600 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] Charles Freeman, assistant secretary for regional security at the U.S. Defense Department, will arrive in Estonia today. More details now from Peeter Kaldre:

[Begin recording] [Kaldre] A U.S. working group on defense matters will arrive in Estonia today, led by Charles Freeman, assistant secretary for regional security. He will have meetings with Defense Minister Indrek Kannik and Defense Forces Commander Aleksander Einseln.

Defense Minister Kannik, what has brought about a visit to Estonia by such a high U.S. defense official?

[Kannik] A joint meeting of Estonian-U.S. working groups on defense issues will take place today. During the meeting both Assistant Secretary of Defense Charles Freeman and European [Principal Deputy Assistant] Secretary at the State Department Alexander Vershbow will provide a survey of the United States' European policy. Freeman will focus in his speech on the United States' positions on issues to do with the Partnership for Peace program, and Vershbow will speak about the new security situation in Europe.

Defense Forces Commander Major General Aleksander Einseln and myself will speaking on behalf of Estonia at this seminar. Maj Gen Einseln will introduce the current process of drafting a defense conception as well as defense reorganization in Estonia—that is, the organization of Estonian defense forces and their aims. He will also provide a survey of the issues to do with the formation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion.

I will speak about the Estonian security considerations in a broader sense, within the European context.

[Kaldre] You say that a joint Estonian-American working group exists. When was it set up and how often does it meet?

[Kannik] In this case it would be more correct to call it a joint seminar, with corresponding people from the U.S. working group and Estonian representatives meeting. There is no set time (?for the meetings) but the intention is that they should be held on a regular basis. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Meri Addresses Diplomats, Deems WEU Status 'Major Event'

WS1805104494 Tallinn ETA in English 1826 GMT 17 May 94

["News Release"]

[Text] Estonian President Lennart Meri and Mrs. Helle Meri held a reception to the diplomatic corps accredited to Estonia on Tuesday [17 May], president's press service told ETA.

In the foreign policy part of his speech to the corps Meri stressed Estonia's wish to join NATO, pointing out granting the Baltic states West European Union associated [WEU] membership as a major event. During the next few months Estonia is to sign a free trade agreement with the European Union, Meri said. The European stability pact by the European Union offers good opportunities of cooperation to Estonia, especially as concerns integrating aliens into Estonian society and Estonian-Russian border problems, Meri said. As to the interior policy, President Meri criticized the unsatisfactory work of the Citizenship and Migration Board which has created additional tension. He was worried about the low standard of living of pensioners and other people with low income, the improvement of which depended on effective development of economy, Meri said. President also dwelt upon Estonian-Russian relations, saying that Estonia wanted friendly relations with Russia despite the wish to sign an agreement on withdrawal of all Russian troops from Estonia by August 31, 1994.

The answering speech was held by the doyen of the diplomatic corps, Ambassador of Sweden Lars Grundberg.

CSCE Commissioner for Minorities Arrives on 2-Day Visit

WS1805103994 Tallinn BNS in English 1836 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 17, BNS—The CSCE High Commissioner for Ethnic Minorities, Max Van der Stoel, began a two-day visit to Estonia today.

Van der Stoel had meetings today with President Lennart Meri, members of the parliament's foreign affairs commission, and officials from the Estonian Institute of Human Rights, the Foreign Ministry press office reports.

The CSCE high commissioner is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Mart Laar, representatives of the parliament's law commission and foreign ministry officials Wednesday [18 May]. He will also meet with Russian Ambassador Aleksandr Trofimov.

Parliament Speaker Comments After Baltic Assembly Meeting

WS1705115694 Tallinn BNS in English 1842 GMT 16 May 94

[Excerpt] TALLINN, May 16, BNS - Initialing a troop withdrawal agreement like the one between Russia and Latvia would have ended with a no-confidence vote to the government in the Estonian parliament, parliament Speaker Ulo Nugis said in his comments to reporters after last weekend's session of the Baltic Assembly.

Latvia and Russia signed a framework agreement in April on Russian troop withdrawal together with a package of additional treaties, including one on the social protection of retired Russian military living in Latvia. Estonia so far has refused to make any concessions to Russia over the issue of the retired military, which has become a major reason for the current deadlock in the talks between the two countries.

Nugis in his remarks said the agreements signed between Latvia and Russia in no way influenced the relations between Estonia and Latvia. He said Estonia honors the right of Latvia as an independent country to sign whatever agreement it wishes. But he added that the signing of the treaties in Moscow had had a certain negative impact, leaving Estonia to some degree isolated.

The parliament speaker stated that Estonia is not going to make any concessions to Russia over the military pensioners' issue, because such is the government's "firm position and the people's will." He also said any such concessions would contradict the country's legislation and have an effect opposite to what is wished as to the country's demographic situation. [passage omitted]

Ruling Party Says Confidence Vote Would Cause 'Big Damage'

WS1805103094 Tallinn BNS in English 1553 GMT 17 May 94

[Excerpt] Tallinn, May 17, BNS—Any attempts to force a resignation upon Prime Minister Mart Laar will cause Estonia big damage both in the foreign as well as in the interior political aspects, the faction of Mart Laar's Pro Patria party in the parliament said in a statement today.

The statement followed recent press reports that have predicted a change of the government to take place already within the next few days.

Andres Herkel, adviser to the Pro Patria faction in the parliament, told BNS that the faction supports Mart Laar. [passage omitted]

Weekly Protests Outside Russian Headquarters Continue

WS1705113694 Tallinn ETA in English 1809 GMT 16 May 94

["News Release"]

[Excerpt] The 14th picket in front of the Russian military headquarters building in Tallinn, organised by Estonian National Independence Party every Monday, to protest against the continued Russian military presence in Estonia, stressed that Russian military have 107 days left until the August 31 troop withdrawal deadline.

"Russia will be really free only when it stops occupying other nations", chairman of the Unrepresented Nations Organisation Linnart Mull told the picket, adding that the members of the small nations that serve in the Russian army—Maris, Mordovians, Tartars etc, should instead build up their own countries. [passage omitted]

Legislator Addresses Protesters, Urges Resolve in Talks

WS1705114294 Tallinn BNS in English 1842 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] TALLINN, May 16, BNS - Appointing a new Estonian delegation to continue the talks with Russia would mean acting in Russia's interest, Estonian MP Vardo Rumessen said today.

Rumessen was speaking at a protest meeting in front of the Russian naval headquarters in Tallinn. Weekly pickets are being held in front of the naval headquarters each Monday, and activists from the Estonian National Independence Party say protests will continue until Russian military have left the country.

"The situation at the talks is very good for Estonia," Rumessen said today. "It's Russia's problem that the talks have run into a deadlock."

Another MP, Enn Tarto, added that bending to pressure from Russia would mean acknowledging Moscow's policy of the so-called near abroad.

"Russia wants to make Estonia put up with the situation when Estonia would depend on Russia," Tarto said.

In Rumessen's words Russia is doing everything to overthrow Estonia's current government "with the help of her agents here."

Another well-known political activist, vice-president of the Organization of Unrepresented Nations Linnart Mall, called on the Russian military to leave Estonia. "Russian soldier, I love you; please go home and build up your home country," he shouted in his speech.

More emotional spots were added to today's picketing by the singing of Gaudeamus men's choir from Tartu.

Unemployment Figures Through 1 May Released

WS1705115794 Tallinn BNS in English 1349 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] TALLINN, May 16, BNS - Estonia had 19,522 officially registered unemployed as of May 1, who make up 2.32 percent of the country's population in the working age groups.

The total number of registered jobless rose only by one person from the preceding month, said Inge Rauba, chief spokeswoman for the Labor Market Department.

But as Estonia in the meantime shifted from its previous reference basis for the number of potential workers of Dec. 1, 1991, to a new basis of Jan. 1, 1994, the jobless rate rose one- tenth of a percent to 2.32 from April's 2.22 percent, she added. The number of people in the working age groups at the beginning of this year was 840,790.

The unemployment rate as of May 1 remained highest with 8.4 percent, or 3,824 registered jobless, in the northeastern town of Narva. Next came the southern Polvamaa and Vorumaa agricultural regions, both with 6.09 percent, and the northeastern Ida-Virumaa region with its capital Kohtla Jarve with 5.39 percent.

Only 670 persons, or 0.26 percent of the work force, were registered as out of job in Tallinn. Unemployment rates remain under the one-percent line also in the northern Laane-Virumaa region and the western Laanemaa region with its capital Parnu.

Interest on Overnight Interbank Loans Rising

WS1805102994 Tallinn BNS in English 1553 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Tallinn, May 17, BNS—Interest rates on the Estonian interbank overnight loans market are on the rise again after declining to a all time low early this month, the Bank of Estonia reports.

The weighted-average interest rate for overnight loans between Estonian banks fell to 5.44 percent in the first decade of this month from 5.56 percent of the last decade of April. But also the volume of overnight deals fell from 498.66 million to 426.49 million kroons during the same period.

The total value of overnight deals in the second decade was reported having reached 315.37 million kroons as of May 16 with an average-weighted interest of 5.57 percent.

Ministry Official Says Most Efficient Firms Privately Owned

WS1705113994 Tallinn ETA in English 0734 GMT 17 May 94

[From May 17, PAEVALEHT, p 9; "News Bulletin" No. 94]

[Text] Estonia's most efficient major firms are based on private capital, Finance Ministry section head Toivo Mungel told a news conference yesterday.

The fifty most successful firms were chosen according to seven main indicators, including circulation, profit, profitability, growth rate and export potential, he explained. The role of wood processing is increasing while that of metal trading and processing has started to decrease, Mungel said. He pointed out that the food industry is stable, but the share of high-technology production needs to be increased.

The average growth rate of export was 7 per cent per month in 1993, Mungel told the news conference, adding that the top 50 also included a one-man firm.

Latvia

Military Cooperation Talks Held With U.S. Official

WS1705113194 Tallinn BNS in English 1349 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] RIGA, May 16, BNS - The Latvian defense and other security-related officials met with a U.S. delegation Saturday [14 May] to discuss the further bilateral cooperation in the security sphere.

The Clinton administration has asked the U.S. Congress to extend financial resources to support the projected Baltic Peacekeeping Battalion, Charles Freeman, U.S. deputy defense secretary, told reporters after the meeting.

If the funding is allotted, it will be used for training and equipment purchase, Freeman said.

Latvian Defense Minister Valdis Pavlovskis said the meeting also touched on Latvia's involvement in NATO's Partnership for Peace program, Latvian defense forces reorganization and potential U.S. technical assistance to defense forces and Home Guard.

The foreign assistance to the Latvian defense forces should be based on clearcut plans and programs, said Pavlovskis.

American specialists mentioned the lack of uniform armament and provision system as the main problem for the setup of efficient Baltic defense forces. The Baltic military commands will try to settle the problem, Pavlovskis said.

The U.S. delegation also toured the Latvian naval base at Bolderaja and reconnaissance battalion at Suzi.

Farmers' Union Decides Against Leaving Ruling Coalition

WS1805104194 Tallinn BNS in English 1836 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Riga, May 17, BNS—The Latvian Farmers' Union and its allied organizations decided Tuesday [17 May] against leaving the ruling parliament coalition, which it forms with the Latvia's Way faction.

The Farmers' Federation Council, which includes the Farmers' Union, said it would continue talks with the government to tackle the problems of farmers and ensure policy favorable for the development of agriculture.

On the other hand, the federation plans to propose a popular no confidence vote to the government and the parliament if they fail to settle privatization of food processors, to protect food market, to finance and credit farmers and to introduce favorable taxation before the Aug. 1 deadline.

In addition, the federation demands a leadership shakeup in the Economics Ministry because Minister Ojars Kehris is said to be responsible for the unfavorable economic situation.

The Latvian Farmers' Union faction will not propose Kehris' resigning in the Saeima (parliament) but will discuss it in coalition sittings, said faction head Andris Rozentals.

Latvia has 180,000 individual farms at the moment, said Farmers' Federation deputy chairman, Andris Auzins. From those, only 1,000 are well-off, 7,000 to 8,000 "make the ends meet," while the rest live on family allowances and retirement pensions, he said.

The agriculture suffers most from the chaotic situation on the domestic market and the uncontrolled import of food stuffs, Auzins said.

Agriculture Minister Janis Kinna argued that the Latvian food market was the best protected in the Baltics in view of the introduced import tariffs on farm produce.

The Latvian Farmers' Union ran for the incumbent Saeima together with the Farmers' Federation, the Unlawfully Repressed Persons Association and the Daugavas Vanagi organization. In the Saeima, it joined Latvia's Way to form the ruling coalition, which now unites 47 deputies. From those, three have been suspended on KGB collaboration charges.

Bank To Stop Exchanging Local Rubles for Lats by 1 Jul

WS1705112994 Tallinn BNS in English 1349 GMT 16 May 94

[Text] RIGA, May 16, BNS - The Bank of Latvia decided to finish the exchange of Latvian rubles for lats before July 1, its spokesman Edzus Vejins told BNS.

The Latvian ruble was introduced in May, 1992, as a provisional legal tender. After the introduction of the national currency, the lat, on March 5, 1993, the Latvian rubles were circulated in parallel with the lats.

The Bank of Latvia gradually withdrew the rubles from circulation and exchanged them for lats against the exchange rate 1:200.

According to information at the central bank's disposal, residents hold around 0.2 percent of the totally issued Latvian rubles.

Lithuania

Prime Minister Meets Balladur, U.S. Delegation in Paris

WS1805104394 Tallinn BNS in English 1836 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Paris, May 17, BNS—Lithuanian Prime Minister Adolfas Slezevicius, currently on a five-day visit to France, met with his French counterpart Edouard Balladur in Paris Tuesday [17 May].

During the meeting, which lasted a little over 30 minutes, Slezevicius informed the French premier about Lithuania's economic, domestic and foreign policies.

"Our primary interest was to describe relations with Russia and especially to make it clear that Russia seeks to carry out its interests through Kaliningrad," Slezevicius told reporters after the meeting.

The Lithuanian premier said he also asked the French Government to assist Lithuania in its efforts to get integrated with European economic structures.

Slezevicius and an accompanying Lithuanian Government delegation arrived in Paris Tuesday for meetings with top-ranking French officials and to attend a World Bank conference devoted to the Baltic states.

On the first day of their stay in Paris, Lithuanian Government officials met with the leadership of the World Bank. Slezevicius met with a U.S. delegation which came to the conference.

Defense Cooperation Pact With U.S. Expected 'This Year'

WS1805101494 Tallinn BNS in English 1653 GMT 17 May 94

[Text] Vilnius, May 17, BNS—The U.S. Department of Defense and the Lithuanian Ministry of Defense intend to sign a memorandum on defense cooperation already this year, according to the results of talks held in Vilnius Monday [16 May].

Lithuanian Defense Minister Linas Linkevicius said he expects the memorandum to serve as a basis for other documents that would define specific forms of defense cooperation, including acquisition of weapons by Lithuania.

The assistant U.S. secretary of defense for regional security affairs, Charles Freeman, said the memorandum, which is under preparation, provides for wide-ranging cooperation and expressed hope that Lithuania and the United States will smoothly approach its signing.

At a press conference in Vilnius Monday, Freeman said the United States intends to sign similar accords with all countries in East and Central Europe, except a majority of former Soviet republics. The official said the fact that the Baltics are offered such cooperation witnesses the continuity of a policy according to which the United States never formally recognized the annexation of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania by the Soviets in 1940.

U.S. and Lithuanian delegations, headed by Linkevicius and Freeman, met Monday to discuss possibilities for closer defense cooperation, as well as to exchange views on the preparation of Lithuania's "Partnership for Peace" presentation document, the defense doctrine, the national security concept and the creation of the Baltic peacekeeping battalion. Both delegations met with Lithuanian President Algirdas Brazauskas.

U.S. experts gave a positive evaluation of Lithuania's defense doctrine, the national security concept and the partnership presentation document. Linkevicius said the latter document should be submitted to NATO for consideration May 25. The U.S. delegation welcomed the Baltic peacekeeping battalion initiative.

Freeman said the U.S. Congress is expected to decide soon on assistance to peacekeeping initiatives in East and Central Europe. He said the U.S. Government wants to see political, economic and defensive integration of the Baltic states into transatlantic systems. As regards Lithuania national defense system, Freeman said the country made a step forward and continues to move in the right direction.

Preliminary Investment Agreement Initialed With Italy

WS1605125594 Vilnius ELTA in English 1835 GMT 13 May 94

[From "News Bulletin" No. 499]

[Text] Vilnius, 13 May, ELTA—An Italian-Lithuanian agreement on the promotion and protection of investments was initialed in Rome on Thursday [12 May], Italian Embassy reported ELTA. Italian side was represented by the Deputy Director of Foreign Ministry Mr. Cavarai and Lithuanian—by Ambassador Stasys Lozoraitis.

The agreement which will be signed in the nearest time, is yet to be completed. The agreement gives to Italian investors in Lithuania a legal framework, which will constitute an impetus to the Italian presence in Lithuania.

Nuclear Plant Searches for Firm To Dismantle Third Block

WS1605101194 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 11 May 94 No. 91 p 5

[Report by Ruta Skatikaite: "The Choice of the Ignalina Nuclear Station"]

[Text] A competition on the dismantling of the third block at the Ignalina nuclear power station has ended. Following its announcement of the competition, the nuclear station was visited by representatives of enterprises from Vilnius, Jonava, and Panevezys. Several German and Norwegian firms also expressed interest in this venture. Foreigners immediately refused the structure of the third block, because, in their opinion, its dismantlement would require additional government assignations. From among the Lithuanian enterprises, the station chose the trade stock company "Lina." The latter has already concluded agreements with construction and transportation organizations in Visaginas. "Lina" was not daunted by the most difficult condition of the competition—to dismantle the block at its own cost.

The Ignalina nuclear power station has passed on information concerning the results of the competition to the government, which will have to decide whether or not to allow "Lina" to dismantle the third block.

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